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LONDON, SATURDAY, MARCH 30, 1887.

## LITERATURE

*Lives of the Archbishops of Canterbury.* By Walter Farquhar Hook, Dean of Chichester. Vol. V. *Middle Age Period.* (Bentley.)

HALF-A-DOZEN archiepiscopal biographies are here added to the series of which the Dean of Chichester is the author. The period embraces the whole of the fifteenth century and a year or two of the sixteenth; that is, from the early years of Chicheley, who was consecrated primate in 1408, to the death of Archbishop Deane, in 1503. Within the period mentioned there were just as many kings as primates, reckoning as one the young Edward the Fifth, who bore all the griefs but none of the glories of kingship. The archbishops of the period referred to were, Chicheley, Stafford, Kemp, Bourchier, Morton, and Deane. These names, some of which belong to Shakespeare as well as to history, are names of men who reached the highest dignities of their profession from various starting-points. Chicheley was a Northamptonshire shepherd-boy, whom William of Wyckham found musing by the banks of the Nene, and whose answers to his queries were so apt that William withdrew him, nothing loth, from herding sheep to be a shepherd of souls. Chicheley's success was so undoubted, and so splendid withal, that his enemies were never able (poor things!) to forget that his father had been (or was said to have been) a tailor. Some of his rivals, afraid lest Chicheley might himself forget the pleasant fact, and might therewith lose a wholesome source of humility, are said to have kept him in mind of it once at the court of Henry the Sixth. "They caused him to be served with a pie full of rags; the rag-pie being intended to remind the first peer of the realm of his humble origin." The pie was placed before Chicheley as a present from the King; and when the good man saw of what dry fruit it was composed, he calmly sent back his thanks to the King for recalling the memory of a worthy and affectionate father; and added, that he would pray that Henry might as much surpass in glory, prowess and virtue his glorious father as he, Chicheley, had surpassed his (an honest tailor who had saved enough to be able to turn farmer) in honour and preferments.

This story is so good that we may hope it is true. It has, since the date of its origin, been ascribed, with various modifications of time and circumstance, to a hundred other persons. "Your father was only a tailor," said a squire to a man who had gone far ahead of the squire in wealth and dignity. "True," said the other; "and if your father had been a tailor, you would have been a tailor too!" The good story is in Joe Miller; but it is at least as old as Chicheley's times. The thing may have happened, as described, to Chicheley, for something similar happened to Lord Chancellor Thurlow. The Duke of Grafton taunted him with having risen to the peerage from a humble position. It was the most unlucky thing that profligate ever hazarded. Thurlow, with the air of Jove grasping his thunderbolts, vindicated himself and all other Lords whom the Peerage had sought because of their merits, and who had not sought the Peerage. He told the descendant of Charles the Second's mistress that he was "the accident of an accident"; and he intimated to the *roué*, who lived publicly with Nancy Parsons, and was fooled by his own profligate duchess, that if he was above Thurlow as a Peer (which he was not), he was below him as a Man. "I," said the Chancellor, "am as

respectable and as much respected as any peer I now look down upon."

There was some similarity of character, in this respect, between Chicheley and Thurlow. The prelate was not ashamed of his lowly birth, and the Chancellor readily admitted his humble descent. When some over-zealous friend suggested to the latter that he was descended from Thurlow, Cromwell's private secretary, the Chancellor curtly remarked: "Sir, there were two Thurlows in Suffolk formerly, Thurlow the secretary, and Thurlow the carrier. I am descended from the carrier."

Four out of the six archbishops named above rose to the rank which Thurlow held. Chicheley and Deane were the exceptions. Deane, however, was Lord Keeper. Bourchier had the blood of the Plantagenets in his veins. Deane was of no particular account. The rest were gentlemen. Their story, as told by Dean Hook, is less that of individuals than the history of England narrated with some iteration. York and Lancaster, the wars and the loves of the Roses, occupy a considerable portion of this volume. Rather than deal with this, we prefer noticing some of the many illustrative incidents which give a charm to the book, and which are connected with the manners and customs of the times. In those times the combination of learned professions in one individual has puzzled many simple minds. Thus, Chicheley was a regularly trained lawyer who hoped to derive his emoluments from the Church, of which he was also an ordained member. "The remuneration of a lawyer," says the author, "was not a salary, but some ecclesiastical preferment, which was either a sinecure, or a place the duties of which could be performed by a deputy." So with the King's ministers. There was no stipend for those gentlemen, but if they gave satisfaction to their master and they required remuneration, "it was provided through those ecclesiastical appointments which were at the King's disposal." Not unlike the same system was the course taken with regard to eminently successful physicians. If their royal or noble and convalescent patient had no knowledge of "fees," they had another way of rewarding their doctor, by giving him a living. The eye of astonishment would be painfully opened if a royal physician were now named to an episcopal see; yet one of our own Queen's uncles was a Right Reverend little Father in God when he was in his cradle, and never had the clerical training which lawyers and physicians had in the olden time. Very curious and inexplicable was the rule of conduct with regard to the clerics in that olden time. They would marry, occasionally, in honour of nature, honest love, and the human heart; but this was in spite of the Canons. Sometimes a clerical widower would take unto himself a second wife; but of such a man the Canons were ashamed, and against him their wrath was directed. If, instead of marrying at all, he had set two concubines successively at the head of his household, he would have committed a less serious offence. Innocent the Third contemplated these handsome hussies, and could not find it in his heart to be angry. They were not wives; therefore, the priest had not outraged the Canons enjoining celibacy. It was not exactly right perhaps, however pleasant; but there was no positive irregularity in it, and dispensations were kindly granted to priests who obeyed the laws against marriage and found there was none against mistresses. "From such laws," said Johnson, "good Lord, deliver us!" Dr. Hook notes the circumstance "as one of those which rendered the Reformation necessary." The whole affair reminds one of the

prohibition in force in the Gallican Church against priests having housekeepers under forty years of age. A bishop on a visitation dined with a rural curé, at whose table two neatly-kilted damsels waited on the guests. "Do you call that keeping the law, brother?" asked the bishop.—"I do, Monseigneur," replied the curé; "I keep it in two volumes instead of one!" In all times there seems to have been an alacrity, a spirit of fun, in evading the law. When Chicheley crowned Henry the Sixth, in Paris, during Lent, there were great rejoicings, and, notwithstanding the season, a right royal banquet. "Ye shall understand," says orthodox Alderman Fabyan, the Chronicler, "that the feast was all of fish!" And having thus quieted any qualms on the part of his readers, the clever rogue lays the bill of fare before them, and the very first article in it is "*brawn*!"

The Lent laws touching feasting were often curiously driven through. At the tables of the kings of France, prohibited dishes were served up in such guise, or disguise, that they looked the legal things they were not. Leo the Tenth himself had much charity in this matter, and for an exquisite sauce, concocted by his cook in Lent, he ennobled the artist, and called him Jean de Carême; from whom the *great Carême* is said to be descended. There was certainly no braver or more pious king than Louis the Ninth; but he did not decline a pullet after Ash-Wednesday, nor a cheerful chaplain to share it, provided he did not sermonize. "Joking is good sauce with chicken," he would say; and if the chaplain did not take the hint, he received no more commands to dine with the good king. The Council of Orleans was less liberal than St. Louis; for they decreed that whoever should transgress by eating forbidden fruit should be punished by having all his teeth drawn! One of Dr. Hook's own archbishops looked at the matter in another light. When a strict churchman once frowned sternly at Thomas à Becket enjoying the breast of a pheasant as soon as the clock intimated the lawfulness of eating meat, the prelate laughingly told him he was a ninny, and that a man might be a glutton upon horse-beans, while another might take a slice or two, or even more, of a pheasant, and enjoy it like a gentleman. In somewhat similar spirit, the canonized Archbishop of York was wont to express his conviction that roast goose had not been invented especially for sinners! The good men who dined at King Henry's coronation banquet in Lent probably had the same opinion with respect to the fat brawn and other agreeable viands which figured at the dinner of which it is facetiously said that "the feast was all of fish."

There are numerous instances, not only in the present volume, but in its predecessors, of the liberty with which political matters were treated in the pulpit. The dark destiny of kings has been foreshadowed in unmistakable allusions to it by preachers; and Dr. Hook records, under Stafford's life, that "the clergy, for some reason or other, were so violent, and their sermons so political, that preachers were required to write their sermons, that they might be produced if called for." The popular voice was bold enough, too. The men of Kent, when Cade's dangerous affair was troubling the Government, complained that they were prevented electing county representatives freely, and they demanded to be set free from the humiliation of being compelled to elect men whom they had already rejected. Dr. Hook notes this as being one of "the earliest demands for Parliamentary Reform," and a sign of the rising importance of the lower House of Parliament.

Archbishop Bouchier, who served Henry the Sixth, and crowned Edward the Fourth, Richard the Third, and Henry the Seventh, was one of those ecclesiastics who looked after the social and religious improvement of the people, leaving them to take care of their political rights. At the temper with which he performed this duty we may now be permitted to smile. The people themselves may have smiled at being recommended to practise abstinence when they remembered how Archbishop Bowet practised it in his palace near York, where 1,600 tuns of claret were annually quaffed to some good intent, if not purpose. Bouchier, in one of his proclamations to the people, enjoined them to keep the Lord's Day, and to pray to God "for the extermination of the Turks." This sample of Christian charity is much akin to that of the Moslem in themselves, who, when the plague is in their village, assemble and pray to Allah that he will send it onward to the next! Bouchier had a great deal of trouble with his young secular clergy. They would wear swords, daggers, gilt girdles, long shoes, shoulder-bolsters, and doublets or short cloaks instead of cassocks. As they added to the costume all the bad practices that generally distinguished the debauched fellows who set the fashion of wearing it, Bouchier was sorely vexed with his young gentlemen, who seemed to consider that to this, among the rest, were they ordained. The regulars, however, were as stiff-necked as the young seculars, and much more unpopular. They all wore the monastic attire, according to rule; but some of them, when they had got abroad, covered it with a lay dress, and looked, to all the world, as right fashionable young fellows!

Let us note here, as a singular fact, that, when the voice of the people was beginning to be outspoken, such a king as Edward the Fourth did violence to a popular theory, namely, that the people chose their king. Hitherto, every Norman and Plantagenet king had dated the commencement of his reign, not from the day of his actual accession, but from that of his coronation, at which ceremony the people were asked if they would have so-and-so for king. What would have occurred if they had declined to accept the puissant Prince So-and-so? But they were at least complimented by the passing attention paid to their supposed presence and influence. Edward the Fourth cut away the compliment by dating his reign from the 4th of March, 1461, when he went down to Parliament, seated himself on Henry's throne, had himself proclaimed king, and did not wait for the coronation and the popular acclaim. Dean Hook's summary of Edward is close enough; it is to the effect that he "was a bad man, but a great king." The Dean's judgment on Richard the Third is not so satisfactory, nor so brief. He does, indeed, allow many good qualities and lofty endowments to that monarch, the which, and more, he unquestionably possessed; but he argues that his possession of them, or Richard being a pleasant, amiable man, does not prove that he did not murder his nephews. Of course, it does not. But neither is it conclusively proved that he did, or that the nephews, as some deny, were really murdered. The opponents of Richard's government certainly did not overlook what Dr. Hook, not very happily, calls the "trump card," which Richard had placed in their hands. They dwelt on the innocence of the children and the cruelty of their uncle, and "they sang the ballad of 'The Babes in the Wood.'" Does Dr. Hook seriously think so? Or is it after much, or any, consideration that he fancies he has settled the respect due to Buck, the first writer who had a word to say in favour of Richard the

Third, by curtly saying that "for that King Buck held a brief"? What possible especial interest could that antiquary have in "holding a brief" for Richard? We should be as much justified in asserting that Dr. Hook holds a brief for Henry the Seventh, and is rather rash in what he advances in support of his client and his cause. For example, the Dean says of the judicial murder of the boy Earl of Warwick (son of Clarence and, but for Henry's occupation, heir to the throne), that "Henry regarded it as a political necessity; yet, even then, he did not order the execution until the unfortunate prince had been induced to transgress the law and appear as a rebel." *Appear as a rebel!* When? where? how? From the time of his father's murder and attainder, the child had been in custody, at Sheriff Hutton (Richard's house), in the mansion of Henry Tudor's mother, and, finally, in the Tower. He was in this palace fortress when Warbeck, whom the Pope and the King of Spain sincerely believed to be the Duke of York, was consigned to it a prisoner. The two lads met, and agreed in a plan to escape. It was on the discovery of this agreement that both were accused of designing to break prison and murder the Lieutenant of the Tower, and, being found guilty, suffered death.—Warwick by the axe, Warbeck by hanging. More than this, the records at Simancas, to which the Dean makes some reference, prove that Henry the Seventh murdered the boy Earl (he was but fifteen!) to gratify the King of Spain. Ferdinand would not consent to the union of his daughter, Catherine of Aragon, with Henry's son Arthur as long as a claimant to the English throne existed who might possibly trouble the prospects of that union. *Therefore*, Warwick was murdered, Spain was satisfied, the marriage was celebrated, and, when sorrow and calamity came of it, Catherine exclaimed, in her anguish, that the end was the consequence and penalty of the beginning, and that her marriage with Arthur was made in blood. Dr. Hook may have read his brief, but he has not studied the case so much in accordance with the facts as with the theory which he entertains with regard to it. "It has fared with Henry the Seventh," he says, "as with the great men who preceded Agamemnon. For want of an historian, he has not secured the fame which he deserved." And yet he has had Lord Bacon for historian!

Although this volume cannot be said to be the most interesting of the series to which it belongs, it is, on the whole, a worthy portion of that series. Readers who would see how the lives of the same individuals may be treated by writers who contemplate their heroes from different points of view, will find profit in comparing Dean Hook's Archbishops who were Chancellors, with Lord Campbell's Lord Chancellors who were Archbishops. The double perusal will help them, perhaps, to more correct conclusions than they could form by reading the depositions of a single witness. The long conversation between Morton and Buckingham, at Brecknock, where the prelate was in ward to the Duke, whom he is supposed to have converted from Yorkist to Lancastrian, is quoted by the churchman as fact, and laughed at by the lawyer as fiction. The English Dean thinks it worth while to record that Morton gave eighty gold-embroidered white copes to Canterbury; the north-country biographer, that he introduced an Act "for avoiding all Scottishmen out of England." Deane, who succeeded Morton, was of small account; and Dean Hook seems, as he glides through the brief detail, to be taking breath, as it were, for telling the lives that are to follow,—those of Warham, Cranmer, Pole, and Parker. A portion of these

lives is now passing through the press; and it is said that the story of Cranmer is told with great independence and originality.

*Ciceronis Epistolarum Delectus.* By E. St. John Parry, M.A. (Longmans & Co.)

THE Letters of Cicero have not received the attention from English scholars which they deserve. In one sense, indeed, it may be said that justice has been done to them, as they have supplied materials for two elaborate biographies of Cicero by Englishmen,—Middleton's celebrated work in the last century, and that recently published by Mr. Forsyth, of which we are glad to see a new and more convenient edition. Mr. Merivale also has done good service by his translation of Abeken's German work, 'Cicero in his Letters,' or, as the translator prefers to call it, 'An Account of the Life and Letters of Cicero.' But such works as these, it is obvious from the nature of the case, must be partial in their scope; they incorporate the results of the Letters, biographical or historical, but of the Letters themselves as compositions they can only convey an imperfect impression. Those who read the Letters, not as historians, but as scholars or students of literature, will desire something more—they will require an edition with a satisfactory commentary. It is here that England is deficient. In the last century, not long after the publication of Middleton's Life, Ross, a Cambridge scholar, afterwards Bishop of Exeter, produced an edition of the 'Epistolæ ad Familiares,' in two handsome octavos, with notes in English at the end of each volume. In language which, though it would be unnecessary now, was not superfluous at the time when he wrote, he apologizes for the use of the vernacular, feeling "sure that the generality of those who want to be assisted in the understanding of Cicero's Letters will be more willing to read a comment in plain and intelligible English than one that is conceived in barbarous Latin and the hackneyed phrases of criticism." Speaking generally, the work may be said to perform its promise. It is not very learned or elaborate, but its notes are sensible and useful, and there is some literary merit in the form into which they are thrown. The only other English edition of any of Cicero's Letters of which we are aware (for we are not speaking of professed adaptations from the German) is an edition of the Letters to Atticus, "by a Master of Arts," also emanating from Cambridge, and published in 1840. This is a serviceable, but in no sense of the word a very valuable work, which will save the reader the trouble of consulting obvious books of reference, but will not impart any but the most ordinary information. It has the appearance of having been produced to meet the wants of some university examination; and for such a purpose it may be available even now.

Mr. Parry's book is not a complete collection, but a selection, the principle of choice being that the letters chosen should bear on Cicero's public life. Acting on this rule, the editor has occupied himself chiefly with historical illustrations, introduced either as explanatory notes or as short introductions; and here he seems to us generally clear and judicious. Where he fails is in throwing light on the language of his author. We have gone through the first letter of the series, the first of those addressed to Atticus, and have noted many expressions which we should have been glad to have had explained or illustrated. "Quod adhuc conjectura provideri possit" would have borne a note; so would "puerum proficisci Cincius dicebat," where the present infinitive is not quite clear;



so would "jurabat morbum"; so would "si judicatum esset meridiem non lucere"; so would "non puto te expectare dum scribam." These instances, all culled from the first half page of Mr. Parry's text, will illustrate what we mean. In most cases the general sense can be gathered from his notes; but a student who wishes to gain a knowledge of Latin as well as of history will want more. In each case there is something sufficiently peculiar to require specification and illustration; a careful reader will pause over them: a careful editor should anticipate his wants. Mr. Parry, it is true, professes not to deal with grammatical questions, which he thinks may be solved by students for themselves, or by their teachers for them. But these which we speak of are rather literary and rhetorical points, such as no book of reference would enable pupil or tutor to settle exactly; and it is here that we think an editor's work comes in. Failing this, however, Mr. Parry appears to have produced a useful and convenient book, and that on a subject where new books are much wanted in England.

*The American Conflict: a History of the Great Rebellion of the United States of America, 1860-63. Its Causes, Incidents and Results: intended to exhibit especially its Moral and Political Phases, with the Drift and Progress of American Opinion respecting Human Slavery from 1776 to the Close of the War for the Union.* By Horace Greeley. Vol. II. (Hartford, Case & Co.; London, Stevens Brothers.)

Mr. Horace Greeley, as chief writer (some persons believe the chief thinker also) of the Republican party in the United States, has a very good right to be heard on both sides of the Atlantic, when he undertakes to tell us the story of a conflict the most gigantic, picturesque and memorable in our generation. He helped to bring about that conflict. He helped to conduct it when it had been opened. He also helped to terminate it. From first to last he stood in the centre of events; first among the men who prompted, next among the men who executed the national will. No voice was heard through the din of arms more frequently than his; and more than once, in very critical and exciting moments, his power to stay, or to extend the war, appeared to be almost equal to that of President Lincoln and General Grant. After the second campaign, if not earlier in date, the conflict came to be regarded by the leading men of North and South as a war for the crowning of his ideas; ideas for which a few eminent men, backed by a small but eloquent and active following in the republican party, had been struggling through many weary years against public apathy and private malice. Mr. Greeley had held the pen of that bright minority of thinkers and orators. On many occasions he had been their champion, on all their representative. Abuse had followed his footsteps. Calumny had struck its fangs into his flesh. Caricature had dogged him. For many years he had been the best abused man in New York. But his enemies only helped to do his work—to make known his ideas, to render popular his name, and all that his name stood for. At length his day had come; events became his servants; and he saw his platform carried forward on half-a-million bayonets. If any individual had a right to enjoy a personal triumph in the close of that war, Mr. Greeley had certainly such a right.

But then, the very closeness of his personal connexion with the men and the ideas which the conflict brought into the fore-front of observation, implies some limit to his faculty of story-

telling. Mr. Greeley is beyond all things a patriot; but then he is also, by no fault of his own, a partisan. He has taken up one side, and bound himself to defend it through right and wrong. Hence, he stands in the position of a man who has been compromised by events. The tale which he has to tell is in some measure his own. In criticizing the faults of cabinets and generals, he is dealing with matters of controversy in which he took a leading part as agent and advocate. Under such an aspect of things, a judgment free from passion is not to be expected, hardly to be desired. Other merits of an historian he may have; but not impartiality. His work is a history of the war from the victor's point of view; such as the world is commonly content to receive of all accomplished facts. It is an old moral. Woe to the vanquished! The conqueror has his way, not only on the field of battle, but on the historian's page.

Mr. Greeley is warm, loyal, patriotic; he breathes the spirit of the North; and his narrative has on its pages that glow of recent victory which every one finds just now in the New England cities. Men have been exalted by their recent strife; have become proud with a rich consciousness of power. The sentiment of greatness is upon them; and it is in the spirit of the new life now flushing in their veins that Mr. Greeley addresses to his countrymen this large and powerful summary of their strife. Cynics will sneer at its fervour; critics will dispute its facts; and philosophers will repudiate some of its conclusions; but in the mean time, a hundred and thirty thousand purchasers have placed it on their tables, and probably a million of readers have made themselves masters of its contents. What nobler guerdon can a writer wish?

The extent of the American field of conflict, with the multitude of details which perpetually cover that immense field of view, renders any thing approaching to a summary of Mr. Greeley's work out of question. It is itself the summary of a thousand state papers, cleverly condensed. One point, perhaps, stands out from the mass with a peculiar distinctness. Perhaps the most exciting news which came to Europe during the war (we do not include the assassination of President Lincoln) was that of the fight in Hampton roads, between the Merrimac, with her tiny consorts, and the United States fleet of wooden vessels, ending in the extraordinary naval duel between the Merrimac and the Monitor. Mr. Greeley regards this affair with patriotic anguish. Of the Merrimac he gives an excellent account:—

"Of our naval officers' most calamitous, cowardly, disgraceful desertion of and flight from the Norfolk Navy Yard and Arsenal at the beginning of the struggle, the revolting particulars have already been given. Among the vessels there abandoned to the Rebels, after being fired, was the first-class 40-gun steam-frigate, Merrimac, which, by Capt. M'Cauley's orders, had been scuttled and partly sunk, so that only her rigging and upper works were burned; her hull being saved by a speedy submersion. Having thus fallen an easy prey to the Rebels, she was adopted by them as the basis of an iron-clad, whereof Lieut. John M. Brooke furnished the original plan, which Chief Engineer Williamson and Naval Constructor Porter, together with Lieut. Brooke, ultimately fashioned into the terrible engine of destruction known to us as the Merrimac, but designated by her rebuilders the Virginia. Messrs. Brooke, Williamson, and Porter were all graduates from our navy, as was Commodore Franklin Buchanan, who became her commander. In preparing her for her new service, the hull of the Merrimac was cut down nearly to the water's edge, after she had been plugged, pumped out, and raised; when a sloping roof of heavy timber, strongly and thoroughly plated with rail-

road iron, rose from two feet below the water-line to about ten feet above: the ends and sides being alike and thoroughly shielded. A light bulwark, or false bow, was added, designed to divide the water, and serve as a tank to regulate the vessel's draft; and beyond this projected a strong iron beak. Being thus rendered thoroughly shot-proof, she was armed with ten heavy and most effective guns; and so, having been largely refitted from the spoils of the deserted Navy Yard, became at once the cheapest and most formidable naval engine of destruction that the world had ever seen. Whether she had or had not the ability to live in an open, turbulent sea, was left undecided by her brief but memorable career."

Such was the vessel which has caused the reconstruction of all our European navies. Her first victim was the Cumberland:—

"A little before noon, on Saturday, March 8th, a strange craft was descried from our vessels off Newport News, coming down the Elizabeth river from Norfolk, past Craney Island, attended by two unremarkable steam gunboats. Two other Rebel gunboats, which had, evidently by preconcert, dropped down the James from Richmond, had been discovered at anchor off Smithfield Point, some twelve miles distant, about three hours before. The nondescript and her tenders gradually approached our war-ships awaiting her, and, passing across the bow of the Congress frigate, bore down on the Cumberland, in utter disdain of her rapid and well-aimed but utterly ineffective shots, which glanced as harmless from the iron shield of the foe as though they had been peas. Not a gun was fired by the mysterious and terrible stranger until she struck the Cumberland with full force under her starboard fore-channels, at the same moment delivering a most destructive fire; while her blow had opened such a chasm in the bow of the Cumberland that her forward magazine was drowned in thirty minutes. Still, her fire was kept up until, at 3:35 p.m., the water had risen to the main hatchway, and the ship canted to port; when, giving a parting fire, Lieut. Morris ordered every man to jump overboard and save himself if possible. The dead, and sick, and severely wounded were unavoidably left in her bay and on her decks, to the number of at least 100; and she sank to the bottom in 54-feet water, with her flag still flying from her topmast."

Next came the turn of the Congress:—

"Seeing the fate of the Cumberland, she set her gib and topsail, and, with the assistance of the gunboat Zouave, ran aground not far from our batteries at Newport News, where she was soon again assailed by the Merrimac, which, taking position about 150 yards from her stern, raked her fore and aft with shell, while one of the smaller steamers from Norfolk kept up a fire on her starboard quarter; while the Patrick Henry and Thomas Jefferson—Rebel steamers from up the James—likewise poured in their broadsides with precision and effect. The hapless Congress could only reply from her two stern guns, whereof one was soon dismounted and the other had its muzzle knocked off. Her commander, Lieut. Joseph B. Smith, Acting-Master Thomas Moore, and Pilot William Rhodes, with nearly half her crew, having been killed or wounded, the ship on fire in several places, without a gun that could be brought to bear on her destroyers, Lieut. Pendergrast, on whom the command had devolved, at 4:30 p.m. hauled down our flag. She was soon boarded by an officer from the Merrimac, who took her in charge, but left shortly afterward; when a small Rebel tug came alongside and demanded that her crew should get out of the ship, as her captors intended to burn her immediately. But our soldiers on shore, who had not surrendered, and who regarded the Congress as now a Rebel vessel, opened so brisk a fire upon her that the tug and her crew suddenly departed; when the Merrimac again opened on the luckless craft, though she had a white flag flying to intimate her surrender. Having fired several shells into her, the Merrimac left her to engage the Minnesota, giving opportunity for her crew to escape to the shore in small boats, with their wounded. About dark, the Merrimac returned and poured hot shot into the

deserted bulk, until she was set on fire and utterly destroyed, her guns going off as they became heated—a shell from one of them striking a sloop at anchor at Newport News, and blowing her up. At midnight, the fire had reached her magazines, containing five tons of powder, and she blew up with a tremendous explosion. Of her crew of 434 men, 218 answered to their names at roll-call at Newport News next morning.

The news of these terrible encounters flew to Washington, and thence to New York. It seemed as though nothing human could prevent the total destruction of the American fleet; and then what would become of the seaboard cities? The Merrimac was confidently expected in the bay of New York. It is doubted whether the forts in the famous Narrows could have kept the iron-clad out of the bay; and it was certain that if she could pass the two forts, the city and shipping of New York would have been utterly at her mercy. The sun went down that night on thousands of anxious hearts. But relief was near:—

"At 10 p.m., the new iron-clad, Monitor, 2 guns, Lieut. John L. Worden, reached Fortress Monroe on her trial trip from New York, and was immediately dispatched to the aid of the Minnesota, reporting to Capt. Van Brunt at 2 a.m. Though but a pigmy beside the Merrimac, and an entire novelty for either land or water—a cheese-box on a raft—the previous day's sore experience of the night and invulnerability of iron-clads insured her a hearty welcome. Never had there been a more signal example of the value of a friend in need."

The duel which ensued between this unpromising visitor and the iron-clad monster is well described by Mr. Greeley:—

"All hands were called to quarters, and the Minnesota, opening with her stern guns, signalled the Monitor to attack, when the undaunted little cheese-box steamed down upon the Rebel Apollyon and laid herself alongside, directly between the Minnesota and her assailant. Gun after gun from the Monitor, responded to with whole broadsides from the Merrimac, seemed to produce no more impression than a hailstorm on a mountain-cliff; until, tired of thus wasting their ammunition, they commenced manœuvring for the better position. In this, the Monitor, being lighter and far more manageable than her foe, had decidedly the advantage; and the Merrimac, disgusted, renewed her attentions to the Minnesota, disregarding a broadside which would have sunk any unplaced ship on the globe, and put a shell from her rifled bow-gun through the Minnesota's side, which tore four of her rooms into one and set her on fire; but the flames were promptly extinguished. The Merrimac's next shot pierced the boiler of the tug-boat Dragon, which was made fast to the port side of the Minnesota, to be ready to assist in towing her off; killing or badly wounding seven of her crew and setting her on fire. By this time, the Minnesota was raining iron upon her assailant; at least fifty solid shot from her great guns having struck the Rebel's side without apparent effect. Now the little Monitor again interposed between the larger combatants, compelling the Merrimac to change her position; in doing which she grounded; and again a broadside was poured upon her at close range from all the guns of the Minnesota that could be brought to bear. The Merrimac was soon afloat once more, and stood down the bay, chased by the Monitor; when suddenly the former turned and ran full speed into her pursuer, giving her a tremendous shock, but inflicting no serious damage. The Rebel's prow grated over the deck of the Monitor; and was badly cut by it; so that she was not inclined to repeat the experiment. The Monitor soon afterward stood down the Roads toward Fortress Monroe; but the Merrimac and her tenders did not see fit to pursue her, nor even to renew the attack on the now-exposed Minnesota; on the contrary, they gave up the fight, which they were destined never to renew, and steamed back to Norfolk."

In conclusion, we can recommend Mr. Greeley's work as a full, picturesque, and ani-

mated record of the great war; the whole regarded from the victorious side.

*The Principles of Banking, its Utility and Economy, with Remarks on the Working and Management of the Bank of England.* By Thomson Hankey, M.P., formerly Governor of the Bank of England. (Effingham Wilson.)

THE waves of knowledge undulate outwards from a centre; which centre, as to money business, is no doubt the City, technically so called: but at a distance from the centre, the undulation is very slight. Among persons quite unused to business there is but a hazy notion of the way in which trade profits are realized: there are those who have a dim idea of living by trade as being managed by buying and selling again, but without any addition to the price. We have even heard of persons who thought that selling at a profit is clearly unscriptural, as coming in principle under the prohibition of usury. But a great many persons, of better knowledge than this, and who themselves are in trade, have but a cloudy idea how the banker manages to grow rich. His notion is that his money is safe in the bank: so it is, or at least, when he draws, he will receive other people's money, which is quite as good as his own. The banker lends his customer's money, and makes interest of it: the outgoing customers are paid out of the money of the incoming ones, aided, if needful, by the reserve which is kept unemployed for the purpose. This, with care that the moneys lent shall be lent on good and available security, and with the ultimate resource of the banker's own capital, keeps the banker in a better state of ability to answer demands than he would be if he kept his deposits unemployed.

The interest which the banker makes of his customer's money is the payment for the various accommodations which he affords. He will not, therefore, take a customer whose balance is very small. Mr. Hankey tells us how the Bank of England looks upon this matter, in reference to its private banking business. It regards house room, clerk's work, &c., as repaid by sixpence a cheque, for each cheque paid out. Thus, the average balance being 500*l.*, of which 100*l.* is left unemployed for security, the remaining 400*l.*, at 3 per cent., makes 12*l.* This is 480 sixpences, and the account would be considered remunerative if not many more than 480 cheques were drawn.

The private banker acts on the same principle, though probably at a cheaper rate. A man who employs a banker must therefore take care to have a balance of a certain amount: and hereby hangs a tale. Many a person has deferred payment of a debt justly due, because he "could not conveniently lower the balance at his banker's." Sometimes another excuse is made; sometimes the plain truth is let out. And the plain truth is this—"The money has become due to you, and you ought to have what interest you can make of it from this day: but I want the interest to help to pay the wages of one of my servants, the banker; so, if you please, I will keep your money for a while." This looks very ugly; but it is not often set out in broad daylight.

Mr. Hankey's very clear and interesting book may be divided into his description of the Bank of England, his remarks on the unreasonable expectations which are formed in many quarters as to what it ought to do for the assistance of bankers and merchants, and his incidental strictures on private bankers. It is thought by some that one duty of the Bank is to supply private bankers with money when their assets are not immediately available. On

this point Mr. Hankey thinks that the more the Bank is assimilated in this matter to a well-managed private bank, the better for all. To this view we also strongly incline: we think the Bank should give assistance on the same terms on which a private banker assists his customer; undoubted security, and interest proportioned to the pressure, that is, to the effect of the pressure on the market value of money. But this is a deep subject: all we have to say is, that Mr. Hankey is deeper in it than either we or the bulk of our readers, and we recommend the book before us as material for reflection. "A relation of mine, C. Poulett Thomson," says Mr. Hankey, "used to say to me that nothing was easier to conduct than the business of a banker, if he would only learn the difference between a mortgage and a bill of exchange. This saying may appear absurd; but I believe it is full of wisdom." The oracle speaks rather obscurely, and Mr. Thomson and Mr. Hankey are both a little reticent, to spare the feelings of the commercial world. It seems to be meant that the true honest bill of exchange is a mortgage; and that every other bill is a kite. The words *value received*, which are necessary to the instrument, announce a mortgage. A contractor draws upon a railway company at six months: the company accepts; they have received value from the contractor in work done when the contractor gets, say, his banker to discount that bill, he has mortgaged to the banker the debt due to him from the company. The contractor is a borrower on the security of his claim upon the company: that is, in effect, upon the security of the buildings he has erected for the company. Every real bill transaction is thus a mortgage; and every other so-called bill is a kite. Now the bankers know this better than anybody. Mr. Thomson's aphorism means that banking becomes easy so soon as the banker knows how to settle, as to this or that particular bill, how the matter stands. And the saying might be extended: the giving of credit, no matter how, becomes a safe proceeding as soon as it can be settled who can pay and who cannot.

Thirty years ago we saw the fourth edition of Gilbart's treatise on Banking: it was the first book on the subject we had seen which was easy to understand and pleasant to read. Mr. Hankey's book might be bound up with it: the volume would not be very thick; and the possessor would have an elementary account of banking, public and private, which would often protect him from drawing-room nonsense and newspaper fallacy.

#### NEW NOVELS.

*Woodburn Grange: a Story of English Country Life.* By William Howitt. 3 vols. (Wood.)

'Woodburn Grange' is a discursive history of the sayings, doings, hopes, fears, loves, enmities, and occurrences of a whole neighbourhood. An agricultural district, held by old squires and landlords of the old stolid, stationary class, is invaded by new men and new ideas, and the collision between old prejudices and new lights, the old order and the new, is both amusingly and cleverly set forth. As a story, the work is rambling and diffuse. The different characters and their various fortunes are all distinctly drawn, and have an air of individuality which makes it difficult to believe that they are not more or less portraits. The names of the old squires are symbolical, like those in 'Pilgrim's Progress,' which as a matter of taste is questionable; it is too bad to label a man, even in a story, with a name which is the caricature of his character. Each personage is drawn with a strong partisan bias, which destroys the impar-



tiality with which an author ought to regard all his literary children. There is no particular plot. The story resembles a field of wheat, in which every blade has its own stalk, but is to the looker-on lost in the crowd of its fellows. There are old country squires, new gentry, farmers, labourers, tramps, poachers, and vagabonds; most of them bold and life-like, but not subordinated to any general design. The characters of Sir Roger Rockville, the old feudal lord of the manor, and Simon Degge, the last descendant of a race of paupers almost coeval with the lord of the soil, are exceedingly good. We would gladly have seen and heard more of Simon Degge, and we were rather disappointed to find that he occupies so small a space. There is an interesting account of family manners and customs amongst the Quakers before they became merged in the world and ceased in great measure to be different from other people. Mrs. Heritage, the Quaker matron, is a beautiful character; and Milicent, her daughter, is worthy of her. The account of the Friends' yearly meeting, the one piece of relaxation and gaiety which used to diversify the even tenor of Quaker life, is interesting; it is the picture of a state of things now passed away. Mr. Drury, the terrible agricultural innovator and reformer, who brings in his improvements with so ruthless a hand as to raise feuds, indignation and divisions amongst friends and neighbours, is true to the life; his tragical end and the strange dream by which the murderer is discovered will seem a clumsy device to readers who do not believe in supernatural interference. The quarrels about hedges, fences and rights of road, make up a picture of life in a rural district, which is a counter-balance to the country delights of fresh air, fine pastures, cream, butter and other country delicacies; the reader whose lot is cast amid the larger interests and more general cultivation of a large town feels thankful, and not disposed to change it. 'Woodburn Grange' is a book that will be read with interest for the sake of its sketches of life and manners.

*Maidenhood.* By Mrs. Sara Ann Marsh. 3 vols. (Hurst & Blackett.)

'Maidenhood' contains minute painting of character, and pleasant incident; it is an attempt to show the characteristics of young girls in the course of growing up out of girlhood into womanhood; and there are shades and developments of character shown in much variety. The book purports to be the history of all the marriageable young women in a whole county!—young ladies, we ought to say, for all of them belong to the county gentry, except those who are members of the aristocracy. Though the book is somewhat slow, and as prolix as 'Sir Charles Grandison,' yet, if the reader can once get fairly embarked upon the story, he will be interested in the matrimonial hopes, and fears, and prospects, and tender feelings of the young heroines. The courtship and marriage of "our dear Miss Barrymore" and Mr. Hamilton are excellent; but the selfish flirtations of Lord Danby, his unscrupulous nonsense and mystifications, become wearisome. There is a long and very tiresome account of Almeric Barrymore, who gets into a morbid, half-insane state of mind, because he has unintentionally taken up an old and valuable gold coin belonging to his grandfather, and cannot make up his mind to give the very simple explanation, and return it to its place, but allows himself to keep it, out of morbid indecision, until he persuades himself there is some supernatural agency at work in the perfectly accidental and natural incidents that befall the troublesome "six-angel piece";

he grows ill and hypochondriacal, and the reader wishes him dead or in a lunatic asylum. The book is far too long; but the reader can, if he so pleases, follow the fortunes of any of the young maidens who may interest him, and skip the others.

*The Wife's Peril: a Romance.* By J. S. Lockhart. 3 vols. (Saunders, Otley & Co.)

THE scene of this story is laid in a moated castle that frowns upon poachers, banditti, and wild boars in a Bohemian forest. It is almost needless to say that this gloomy fortress has a drawbridge, a dungeon, a mystery, a pile of old bones, a lovely heiress, a wronged wife, and for its master a philosophic baron who never stirs beyond the walls of his fortified home unattended by a couple of mastiffs. Of course this studious and dog-protected baron is no less hospitable than grimly mysterious, lavishes courteous attentions on the young Oxonian, Mr. Strangford, who, in the course of a pedestrian excursion, wanders to the immediate vicinity of the castle of Waldstein, and accidentally encounters its proprietor. "Our traveller," runs the description of Mr. Strangford, "was still a young man in the bloom of life, and had only two years previously finished his academical career at Oxford, where he gained high honours. His countenance, so prepossessing and noble in its outline, was gladdened by an expressive blue eye. His hair was light-coloured and curly, giving an additional grace to his handsome figure, which was above the middle height. There was that easy and refined air about him which at once told the beholder that he belonged to a family of distinction, to whose honours and fortune he had thus early succeeded." Looks may indicate a great deal, sometimes much more than the truth. Common talk is evidence that a man may look like a hero, a knave, a beggar, or a person of substance; but it is difficult to imagine a personal appearance so minutely declaratory of special circumstances that its possessor is seen at a glance to have succeeded to the honours and fortune of a distinguished family. Have we a right to assume that Mr. Lockhart can read in the natural characteristics of a stranger's countenance whether he has succeeded to the fee simple of a large property, or merely to an estate for life, and whether reversionary interests accrue to him on the death of a great-aunt? Of all the marvellous habitants of the moated castle, and the many lawless vagabonds who prowl about its neighbourhood,—of Albrecht, the baron's diabolical butler, and Soronconcolo, the sarcastic valet,—we have no time to speak; but we cannot refrain from drawing the reader's attention to the robber chief, Dombolski, of whom Mr. Lockhart observes, "There stood Dombolski, and around him twenty of his men, well armed. Though his air was calm and resolute, yet a certain careworn look was visible in his fine countenance. A sombreness sat there which occasioned much anxiety to his men; for great was his power over those under his command. He was clad in a loose black velvet jacket, and waistcoat of the same stuff, exposing to view a shirt of the whitest linen, of which the collar was turned down over a scarlet necktie. He wore the characteristic short boot of Hungary overtight-fitting, dark-blue pantaloons, which set off his manly figure to great advantage. A leathern girdle, half hidden from view by his jacket, held one small and one large pistol, besides a broad dirk. His left hand rested on the muzzle of his trusty rifle, and almost down to his shoulders hung wavy black hair." After triumphing over time and fate, this pictorial Dombolski may still be seen on the stages of our minor theatres; but so far as the whiteness of his linen is concerned, he has

deteriorated since his migration from the wilds and fastnesses of his native forest. Towards the close of the third volume, Dombolski's doings contribute greatly to the action of a drama which closes with battle and death, to the reader's amazement, and utter inability to say what the play has been about. As for ourselves, the story has been placed before us under very favourable circumstances, the mysterious power of its ingenious combinations and startling effects being much heightened by the fact that the copy submitted to us for criticism is "bound up all wrong,"—a part of what was designed by the author for the second volume having found its way into the third, whilst the cover of the second volume contains no single page that is not to be found in the third tome. The author's thanks are due to the binder, whose blundering has enhanced the distinctive quality of his work.

*The Story of the Diamond Necklace, told in detail for the first time, chiefly by the aid of Original Letters, Official and other Documents, and Contemporary Memoirs recently made Public, &c.* By Henry Vizetelly. 2 vols. (Tinsley Brothers.)

OF all the legends concerning precious stones, subjects of which (from the days of Cogia Hassan to ours) the world, especially of women, will never tire, the foremost, for its strangeness, its complexity, and its sad issue, is the one here for the twentieth time told again, and told with more of circumstance and cumulative testimony than have been collected by any previous narrator. Mr. Vizetelly's style is not good. It is very familiar and very vulgar. The story has been narrated better, if less accurately, as a matter of history, by Mr. Carlyle; again, though with a strong political bias, by M. Louis Blanc; and again, with all manner of romancer's licence, by M. Alexandre Dumas. Such, however, is the imperishable interest of the tale, that we never seem to read it too often. There are no two figures in the history of fair women (Cleopatra's self not excepted) who exercise so much fascination as Mary Stuart and, on the same level of interest, Maria Theresa's ill-fated daughter.

Perhaps not even in the terrible moments of suspicion which brought about the catastrophe of her fate, when the voice of libel roared the loudest against the Queen of France, have the rights and the wrongs of Marie Antoinette's history been so violently canvassed and contrasted as during the last ten years.

We have not come to the end of the controversy excited by the recent disinterment of a voluminous correspondence by M. Feuillet de Conches, the authenticity of which has been questioned, especially by certain German critics. A part of the objections raised may be explained by the fact that the tenor of the whole is to rehabilitate in some measure the character of their much-abused great lady. Those who "will take a side" somewhat pertinaciously cling to the dogma that wherever there is smoke there must be fire, and assume that the rumours of the reputed Messalina's amours and extravagancies and intrigues, which did so much to bring her head to the block, must have had grave foundation in truth. Surely there is nothing that the bulk of the memoirs of that terrible time tends to establish more completely than the unscrupulous profligacy of tongues and pens. That it was the bequest from gone-by times of wretched and reckless misrule has nothing to do with the fact. The lampooners, especially if they were well paid, spared no one at home or abroad. Some of the brightest and keenest men of France (as we saw the other day, while dealing with Beaumarchais in the



rascal D'Eon's Memoirs) did not disdain to do the dirty work, and receive the dirty pay, of spies. What would the spy's work and pay be worth if he had not pungent and mysterious stories to tell?

Mr. Vizetelly goes further than any other writer in absolving the Queen from complicity, direct or indirect, in the intrigue of the Necklace—that precious legacy of trouble bequeathed to France by Madame Dubarry. It was for her that the great “jewel” (so lustrously described by Mr. Carlyle) was bespoken by Louis Quinze, whose death threw it on the hands of its makers. From first to last, the young Queen obstinately refused to entertain the idea of purchasing it. Mr. Vizetelly maintains that the pretexts of favour, interviews, &c., granted by her to that abominable creature, Madame Lamotte, by which she fooled the silly and amorous Cardinal de Rohan to his destruction, were merely so many impudent lies. This destroys some of the most complicated and interesting situations in M. Dumas' fascinating romance. The woman Lamotte, however (if such could have been the case), was not the first adventuress who had made her fortune in France by pretending to consideration in the Palace. Two women, we are here told, by merely sitting on the staircase at Versailles, in the days when the cautious Maintenon reigned there, and representing themselves as being in that “Solid” woman's confidence (the latest mistress-wife of Louis Quatorze), were enabled thereby to make their fortunes. That the dreary avenues of that Palace were badly guarded, the Barbier Memoirs have assured us. Robberies were not impossible; an assassination took place there. There was corruption in every branch of the service; and the woman Lamotte, once launched into her scheme of daring and intricate crime, was thoroughly capable of corrupting any one and every one necessary to her purpose. Her life was a fraud from its early beginning to the last mad moment of her suicide. Representing herself always as a De Valois (otherwise of the blood royal of France), it was convenient to sink the facts of the bend sinister in the escutcheon of the St-Remis; also, that her father, a brutalized man, who had long resigned such claims on respectability as he had ever possessed, and who had squandered away such lands as had been bequeathed to him on his bastard origin, had made an ignoble marriage, and was content to throw himself on the precarious hopes of mendicancy. The Remis, coarse father, unchaste mother, and cunning eldest girl, with a boy,—being starved out of their home at Fontette,—started for Paris, on the tramp, to claim cousinship with royalty, and extort a livelihood from their great relations. But other small kith and kin had to be got rid of:—

“After disposing of such few movables as they possessed, the wretched family set forth, and literally tramped up to the capital, a distance of nearly a hundred and fifty miles. That they might not be burdened on the way by their youngest child, then about three years old, the unnatural parents left it behind them, exposed on a window-sill of the house of one Durand, ‘a wealthy and avaricious farmer,’ to quote the eldest sister's own words, ‘who, being in possession of a great part of my father's estate, and having stood sponsor to this unfortunate infant, was therefore deemed the most proper person to be her future protector.’”

This humane deed was unblushingly owned in her Memoirs, published in her days of degradation, by the woman Lamotte. To the credit of paternity and motherhood, even among tramps so depraved and crafty as the St-Remis were, it may be hoped that the tale is one of her lies.

The father died in misery shortly after their arrival in Paris; the mother consoled herself

with a low amour, not without having first given birth to another girl, perhaps a legitimate St-Remi. These wretched creatures, with their insane notion, as it then seemed, of forcing open the Palace doors, on the plea of bastard relationship, were left to shift as they could in the midst of want and anxiety, as begging-letter writers, as creatures without a dinner, thankful for crusts, cold meat, old clothes, and presenting themselves on the plea of their distinguished connexions and the spite of Fortune in depriving them of their due position. The St-Remis, or Lamottes (no matter what the name), have their equivalents even in our days—even in this immaculate London of ours—as every reputable householder's letter-box is too apt to testify to himself. The girls and their brother had to start in life, totally without resources, save such as their own knavery, effrontery and cajolery could ensure them. Good, or bad, luck threw them into the way of the Marchioness and Marquis de Boulainvilliers; the lady, one of those weak females who bestow their charity from impulse rather than from discretion. Struck by the tale of royal ancestry and the forlorn state of the children, she sent for them, and put the two girls to school. The youngersickened and died. Pity that our heroine (whom, by the way, Mr. Vizetelly designates in his dedication as “an erring sister”) was not also removed! She learned, however, many things at school, though compelled to do menial service, in spite of the Valois blood tingling in her veins, until the Marquis, who had other views than his wife, caused her to be placed with a mantua-maker, took her brother's fortunes in hand, and succeeded in getting the St-Remis' claims acknowledged at Court by the agency of his cousin, M. Hozier de Sérigny. The King does not seem to have looked with any great cordiality on these scions of royalty, neither to have desired that the relationship admitted should extend beyond a single generation, and strongly recommended the young man to enter the Church, which would, of course, put an end to the title of Baron he was permitted to assume. Later, the same attempt was made in regard to the wild and wicked Jeanne; but the St-Remis had no vocation for contemplative life or devotion. So the young Baron was provided for by a commission in the navy, an outfit, and a pension of eight hundred francs a year. The grace of pension, too, was extended to his sisters, the girl left on Durand's window-sill having been summoned to Paris. The Marquis de Boulainvilliers now began to persecute Jeanne, she tells us, with libertine solicitations. She had grown personable, an object of pursuit. It has been said (what will not Slander say?) that the young adventuress was by no means so rigid as she declares herself in her Memoirs to have been, and as later concessions on her part prove her *not* to have been. The silly Marchioness, however, took alarm, and sent the girls to the Abbey of Longchamp—no immaculate abode of purity. But the Abbess professed herself scandalized, in the case of the equivocal Valois, by the hot pursuit of the Marquis, enjoined close retreat, and pressed her pupils to take the veil. M. Beugnot (whose Memoirs, published last year, are among the latest contributions to this romance) hints that the idea was suggested on instruction from Court quarters (with a view to the extinction of the Valois claim). The girls, determined not to yield to the scheme, broke prison, escaped from the convent, with the goodly sum of thirty-six francs, and made their way to their native place, Bar-sur-Aube. Whether, as Madame Lamotte in her lying Memoirs tells us, they were at once received there as persons of distinction acknowledged at Court, or, as others have said, they were

treated as paupers, is of small consequence. Sufficient to say, that a Madame de Suremont took them in as boarders, on a peppercorn rent, and fitted them in cast-off clothes of hers. They were able thereby to look about them for lovers. They had not to look long, though even in those early days under suspicion, as the following extract will prove. A pair of lovers came forward:—

“In due course several of these young fellows became smitten with our heroine, and amongst those who contested for the honour of her smiles were two who stood out in advance of the rest. One was M. Beugnot, the writer of the Memoirs we have been quoting, and son of a well-to-do citizen of Bar-sur-Aube, who was so alarmed at the mere idea of having Mdlle. de Valois for a daughter-in-law that he packed off his son to Paris, to study law, politics and human nature, which he did to such good purpose as to escape the guillotine, and get created a councillor of state and a count by Napoleon, by whom he was appointed administrator of one of the Rhine provinces. At the Restoration he was named *ad interim* minister of the interior, then minister of police, next minister of marine, afterwards postmaster-general, and finally director-general of the administration of finances; and was altogether so eager a place-hunter, that a pamphleteer of the time said of him that he would have hired himself out to the plague if the plague only gave pensions. The other was M. de La Motte, a nephew of Madame de Suremont's, and son of a chevalier of St. Louis who was killed at the battle of Minden. This young gentleman, an officer, or, as Madame Campan and the Abbé Georget say, a private in the *gendarmérie*, and destitute of any fortune whatever, had already managed to involve himself deeply in debt.”

There was evidently “a moral suitability” (to borrow the phrase of a wit, when describing a picaroon marriage) betwixt this pair. They acted together in private theatricals. They fell desperately in love. Proprieties had to be consulted. Jeanne's patroness, the Marchioness, had to be advised with. Then there was the Bishop of Langres, another protector of Mdlle. de Valois, to be propitiated. But at last the marriage took place, the bride having mortgaged her pension to purchase her *trousseau*; the bridegroom having “sold for six hundred francs a horse and cabriolet, which he had only bought a short time previously on credit at Luneville, where his corps was doing garrison duty.” And “the wedding,” adds M. Beugnot, “did not take place a day too soon, for in the course of the same or following month the countess gave birth to male twins, that died a few days afterwards; upon which occurrence Madame de Suremont, glad of an excuse for getting rid of her new relation—the old lady used to say that ‘the most unhappy year of her life was the one she spent in the society of this demon’—turned the newly-married couple out of her house.”

On this the pair entered on that course of criminal action for which they seem, unfortunately, to have been too well fitted by Nature and by want of Grace.

When Madame Lamotte got to Paris, no one will be astounded to hear that, by way of inn, she repaired to the Hotel de Boulainvilliers. Her benefactress was dying, and the persecutor of a virtue long time departed urged her (by her own showing) with new solicitations, with the corpse of her benefactress hardly as yet cold. These she proudly rejected, out of respect for M. Lamotte; and yet she stayed on till such a juncture as, by begging, lying and intriguing, she had scraped together miserable money, or more miserable credit, to enable her to make some show (as a Valois) and set up on her own account. She paid her tradesmen with lies; possibly herself no less,—for there is nothing so remarkable in the habit of lying as its power of self-deception. But that her lies got a grip on great and small is evident,

and that grip once having been got, she held on her victims till grim death came. Defoe should have had Madame Lamotte's story to tell. Every month brought with it new difficulty, new desperation, new daring, new expedients. As early as 1783 (there is no following this Necklace story, stone by stone, link by link) the woman had made advances to the Count de Provence; she had secured her hold on the Cardinal de Rohan; she had begged from every living creature who could be cheated; she had accepted on the Boulevards treats of cakes (two or three dozen at a time) and of beer, from her old suitor Beugnot, and dinners at the Cadran Bleu, at which she showed herself very greedy; she had set up a borrowed service of silver plate in her house in the Rue Neuve de Saint-Gilles, from which the furniture, unpaid for, went backwards and forwards to the pawnbroker's; she had established a carriage to ride a-begging in, with servants in livery! she had taken into her house her own pet ecclesiastic, one Father Loth, convenient in every way. At last, having become rich, strong and impudent enough, she "scraped acquaintance with one of the Queen's pages at a man-midwife's at Versailles," and got into the palace, where she managed the cardinal success of her life, a fainting-fit, ostensibly brought on by starvation! This scene set her and her Valois claims before the Court. The King distrusted both. The Queen was more pitiful; some augmentation of her pension was wrung out of the drained Privy Purse. Madame Lamotte felt that her star was rising, and that its rise might be aided in more ways than one. She even, by her own showing, bethought herself of paying suit to the ex-mistress, the profligate but not insincere Madame Dubarry, whose gratitude to the Bourbons, whom her excesses had contributed to ruin (it has been said), cost her her life if it induced her to return to Paris, to assist them under the Terror. Jeanne Vanbernier, however, was as keen in her way as Jeanne de Remi, and would have nothing to say to the new trader. Then she tried the Duchesse de Polignac, the known friend and favourite of Marie Antoinette, and thereon received a most freezing denial. Then, as she declares, foiled and having failed, in spite of the service of plate and the carriage to beg in, and the men of mark whom she had entrapped into her net, she felt herself "so low" as to meditate suicide, and to shoot herself to death with pistols hard by Versailles. "Thoughts of her husband" (she says) "stayed her hand." The plot of the Necklace kept her from that suicide.

The story of the Diamond Necklace is so well known, and has been so capitally told by Mr. Carlyle (his jewelled style accepted), that it is purposely avoided here as familiar to every average reader. The unthreading of the wiles of an impostor is the real subject of this article.

What need to dwell, once more, on the accusation, the suspicion, the trial, the branding of the woman Lamotte as a common thief (after the gallant Cardinal had been acquitted), the exile of husband and wife, the terrible suicide of the she-creature in London, the return to life and to a second marriage (if it can be so called) of her miserable partner and accomplice, and his last destitute years as a pauper, dependent on hospital charity!

*The Conspiracy of Gianluigi Fieschi in Genoa in the Sixteenth Century.* By Emanuele Celsia. Translated from the Italian by David H. Wheeler. (Low & Co.)

GENOA, with all her glory, has had but an uncomfortable position among nations. She

has been a slave struggling to beat out her master's brains with her own chains; and when she succeeded, her weakness was so complete after the effort that she generally fell into the power of the first friend who came up to help her with that peculiar aid which makes of the succoured the slave of a new tyrant. Thus, as the ancient Ligures, the once free people bore the yoke of Rome, and suffered in all the revolutions which affected the Roman republic and empire. The Genoese subsequently shook off their sovereign Counts, and welded themselves into an aristocratic republic with a Doge for its master and theirs. But foreign powers allowed them no peace; and when the Doge Andrea Doria raised them out of this condition, it was only to bind himself and subject the people to the tyrannical influence of Austria and Spain. It was out of this humiliation that sprang the conspiracy of Fieschi, which is an episode in history of more picturesqueness than importance. The subject, too, belongs to poetry, and in dramatic poetry especially has been the most nobly illustrated by the genius of Schiller.

The opinions of the author concerning the Doge Andrea Doria do not materially differ from those of Sismondi. Both writers describe that Doge as restoring the republic, but suppressing republican liberty under the sway of an aristocratic oligarchy, of which he and his nephew, Gianotti, were the unscrupulous chiefs. The humiliation of the Genoese at being linked, as it were, by their Doge to the Hispano-Austrian car, was made use of by Gian Luigi Fieschi to exasperate them to that revolt which had certainly succeeded but for the sudden death by drowning of the popular leader as he was passing from one galley to another in the furious assault at the water-side. Deprived of a leader, the victors let slip their victory; the conquered snatched a triumph they had lost; and the vengeance exacted was all the more ferocious because they had so nearly lost all chance of exacting it.

The object of the author is, however, to prove that Fieschi was a true patriot, caring nothing for himself, but all for his country, and especially declining French aid (which would have been French mastery) for the restoration of the independence of Genoa. These qualities have not hitherto been generally allowed to this popular leader; but Signor Celsia maintains that Fieschi has been as sorely calumniated as Catiline, and that both those heroes in history are spotless characters, against whom all adverse judgment would be unjust.

The author, however, is not quite consistent in his views of the same man. "Fieschi," he says, "was called an Alcibiades, and perhaps he was one, the vices included." Two pages later, Fieschi is spoken of as "the most virtuous knight in Genoa,"—his "limbs comely and chaste, the air brave and courteous, the hair of a mulberry tint, the hands white, with fingers long and clean as those of a virgin, the eyes black and brilliant," as he appears in a picture which passes for his "counterfeit presentment." Whatever may have been the public virtues of some of the heroes who shone in this terrible little episode in Genoese history, the social weaknesses of some of the most patriotic nobles were those of envious neighbours in a country village. The palace of the Sauli was a most magnificent object on the hill of Carignano, till Fieschi restored his own palace, on the same hill, to a degree of splendour which somewhat obscured and greatly irritated the Sauli, who, "surpassed by the Fieschi in magnificence, were filled with envy; and this was the first cause of those differences and rivalries which separated those distinguished families."

With the ruin of the Fieschi family, after the failure of the insurrection, that family which furnished a St. Catherine to the calendar, two popes to the church, and the greatest generals in the long wars in the East and against the Venetians,—with the ruin of the family came the recovery of the humiliated pride of the Sauli.—

"Nor were the Dorias alone in hastening the destruction of the Fieschi palace. The Sauli, whose quarrel with the Fieschi we have mentioned, had seen with envious eyes the erection of a palace in their neighbourhood which outshone the splendour of their own, and they were ambitious of being sole masters of the hill of Carignano. There were other stimulants to vengeance. Popular legends tell us (and we count legends more valuable than the breath which scatters them) that the Sauli family attended divine service in the church of the Fieschi in Vialata. One day Bendinello Sauli, in a friendly manner, asked the Fieschi to delay the service a little in order that his people might be present. The Fieschi responded:—'If you wish to hear mass at your pleasure, build a church of your own.' Sauli remembered the discourteous speech and, in 1481, bequeathed two hundred and fifty shares in the bank of St. George to be left at interest for sixty years and then expended in erecting a magnificent church and two hospitals in Carignano. The descendants of Bendinello, stimulated by old and new antipathies, were gratified witnesses of the destruction of the mansion of their rivals, and near it they erected the church which commemorated the bequest of their ancestor. As soon as the palace of the Fieschi was destroyed, Galeazzo Alessi was called to Genoa, and in 1552 he commenced the church of Carignano. The superb basilica cost the Sauli a hundred thousand gold crowns. It would be a perfect monument to their wealth and public spirit, if the front were not disfigured by some statues of inferior workmanship. They embellished their vengeance by a beautiful Christian charity, which survives the antipathies out of which it grew. Stefano Sauli, a descendant of Bendinello, bequeathed another large legacy to construct the massive bridge which conducts to the church and unites the two hills."

The author hardly succeeds in proving that if Fieschi could have destroyed Andrea Doria and his nephew by assassination he would have scorned such means. That way was suggested: let him have the benefit of its not having been carried out; but at the period in question hired braves formed a part of the household of every Genoese nobleman; and however pious, amiable, and benevolent he might be, he thought it as natural a thing to employ them in his little affairs of vengeance as our ancestors of the last century did their running footmen in carrying messages and *billets-doux*.

*The British Captives in Abyssinia.* By Charles T. Beke, Ph.D. 2nd Edition. (Longmans & Co.)

THE appearance of a new and much-enlarged edition of Dr. Beke's volume on Abyssinia offers us an opportunity for making some remarks on a very interesting country.

If the Abyssinian "difficulty" has done no other good, it has, at least, attracted the attention of all Europe to a most interesting, but long-neglected region of Africa, and to a race of men who deserve more of the notice of civilized nations than they have received. Indeed, so many of Nature's choicest gifts have been showered on Abyssinia, that it is quite astonishing that it should have been so comparatively untrod by travellers and so utterly ignored by European emigrants. Take first the climate, and what can be more alluring than the accounts we read of it? Dr. Beke asserts that "the climate of Abyssinia is absolutely more healthy than that of most countries," and, speaking of the captives, declares that "in any other



country in the world, not blessed with such a climate, they must long ago have succumbed to the privations and hardships to which they have been subjected." The author of 'The Highlands of Ethiopia,' speaking of his entrance into Shoa, says, "Three thousand feet above the ocean, with an invigorating breeze and a cloudy sky, the climate of this principal pass into Southern Abyssinia was that of a fine summer's day in England rather than of the middle of July between the tropics." In exquisite scenery, too, few countries can rival Abyssinia. There hills rise above hills "clothed in the most luxuriant and vigorous vegetation." There are "villages and hamlets embosomed in dark groves of evergreens and grouped in Arcadian repose." There mountain peaks tower to the height of Mont Blanc, and cast their giant shadows over "rich fields of every hue, chequering the deep lone valleys." Innumerable streams furrow the soil, and, not to speak of lesser lakes, that of Tsana, near the capital, Gondar, is 200 miles in circumference. Healthy and beautiful, Abyssinia is also rich in those resources of which Nature is lavish where great nations are to dwell. Enough wheat to support a man for a whole year may be bought there for a crown, and coal and iron abound, the iron being found in "so pure a state as to require little more than rolling out; while at fifty miles from Gondar for a league along the right bank of the River Gwang "six seams of coal crop out, each having a uniform thickness of from ten to fifteen feet, the quality of the coal being very good, and fit for ordinary steam and other purposes." Near to the sea, too, there are the coal-fields of Galeila, and in many other parts of Abyssinia coal exists. But besides coal and iron, Abyssinia possesses a source of inexhaustible wealth in the cotton-tree, and within the dominions of Theodore "there are tracts of land more extensive than the whole of the cotton-grounds of Egypt, and far more fitted than the latter for the growth of the cotton-plant, not only as being its native country, but also as lying within the limits of the tropical rains, and thus rendering unnecessary the great trouble and expense of artificial irrigation."

With such great natural advantages, it is no wonder that Abyssinia was soon colonized from Asia,—that Arabs, Jews and Greeks passed into it in numbers,—and that it became the seat of a powerful empire, which there is reason to think sent invading hosts as far as Mesopotamia centuries before Christ, and which certainly in the time of Justinian conquered Yemen with an army of 70,000 men. The wonder rather is, as has been already remarked, that the European explorer and emigrant should not have been attracted to such a region, more particularly as it is inhabited by a people professing Christianity, who, if not completely civilized, are "yet to a considerable extent endowed with kindly manners, humane dispositions and industrious habits." Strange that so many heroic lives should have been sacrificed in endeavouring to penetrate into the interior of Africa from the sandy, waterless north and the pestilential west, and that Dr. Beke should have been the first to discover that the true approach into intertropical and Central Africa is through the highlands of Ethiopia. The only explanation of the fact appears to be that the Turks, by driving the Abyssinians from the sea-coast and surrounding them with hordes of savage slave-dealers, have sealed up their country to Europeans. When the Negus of Abyssinia really ruled as far as Zeila and Obokh, Hanfila and Arkiko, no doubt it was comparatively easy for travellers to pass through the country of the Danakil.

But the Turks, who make no attempt to preserve order under the walls of Baghdad or Constantinople itself, are not likely to keep down robbers on the frontiers of Abyssinia. On the contrary, it is their object to let loose all the dogs of war on the confines of their unhappy Christian neighbours; and so long and to such purpose have their murderous razzias been carried on in that direction, that the very name of Habeshi, "Abyssinian," has become synonymous with "slave." If a more practical proof of the vigour with which the slave-trade flourishes under the auspices of the Turks on the borders of Abyssinia be sought, it may be found in the growth of the city of Khartum, which has sprung entirely from the traffic in slaves. In 1830 the population was nil, in 1837 it had reached 15,000, and had more than doubled that number in 1856.

Driven from the sea-coast, isolated amongst hordes of Mohammedans, of whom Harris truly says that it is the exception for any man of them to die a natural death, their whole vocation being to murder and be murdered, it is not surprising that the Abyssinians degenerated, that the power of the Negus grew weaker, and that Gallas and other barbarous tribes overran a large part of the country. At the close of the fifteenth century, the green banner of Islâm was raised, and the war began which led to the dismemberment of the empire. In 1528 Graan, at the head of the Janizaries, took Shoa, burned all the churches, hunted the Emperor through Tigré, and killed with his own hand the brave monk Gabriel and Don Christopher de Gama, who had come to aid the Christian against the Turk. From that day to the rise of Théodoros, the power of Abyssinia continually declined. It is true that from time to time some brave chief would drive back the invaders. Thus, in 1838 the uncle of Théodoros defeated the Turks at the battle of Aboa, and cut to pieces the regular troops of Mohammed Ali. But, on the whole, the Cross waned, and the Crescent came on, until, in 1856, Abyssinia was again united into one empire under Théodoros.

Long before the rise of the present Emperor of Abyssinia, the English Government had made attempts to establish friendly relations with the rulers of the one Christian country of East Africa. In 1810 Mr. Salt went to Tigré, with a letter and presents from George the Third for the Emperor, and left behind him two Englishmen, Pearce and Coffin, who served to maintain some sort of connexion between their own country and Abyssinia. The Church Missionary Society established a mission in Tigré in 1829, which was compelled in 1838 to move to Shoa, whither Major Harris proceeded on a diplomatic expedition in 1841. Earlier in the same year, Dr. Beke arrived in Shoa, and Ras Ubye, King of Tigré, despatched Mr. Coffin to Queen Victoria with a letter and presents. Next year, Mr. John Bell, of the Indian Navy, and Mr. Walter Plowden took service with Ras Ali, who governed Central Abyssinia, and in 1847 Mr. Plowden came to England with presents for the Queen, and returned to Abyssinia in 1848 as British Consul in that country. In 1849 he negotiated a treaty with Ras Ali, the first sixteen articles of which were copied from the treaty made by Major Harris with the King of Shoa in 1841. In these treaties it was stipulated that there should be friendship between the English and Abyssinian Governments, and that each should receive and protect any ambassador, envoy or consul which the other should send. But in the 17th and 18th articles of the treaty with Ras Ali, power was given to the British consul to decide suits between English subjects and the

subjects of the Emperor of Abyssinia or of any other power, and to administer to the estates of deceased British subjects, "without any interference on the part of the Abyssinian authorities." In 1855 Théodoros became Emperor and re-united Tigré, Shoa, and Amhara into one powerful state. To him the *imperium in imperio* assigned to the British consul by Mr. Plowden's Treaty appeared objectionable; and on this account, and because the Emperor was engaged in serious wars, first with Agau Negusye, and then with Mehret, pretenders to power who arose in Tigré, and also with several refractory chiefs in other parts of the empire, the ratification of the treaty and the appointment of an envoy to go to England remained under discussion, until, in March, 1860, Consul Plowden died of wounds received in a conflict with Garred, a cousin of Negusye. In the October following Théodoros marched to revenge the Consul's death. His Grand Chamberlain, the Englishman Bell, slew Garred with his own hand, and was himself killed by Garred's brothers. After a furious engagement, however, Garred's force of 2,000 men was defeated, threw down their arms, and were all slaughtered. On the 24th of June, 1860, Capt. Cameron was appointed to succeed Mr. Plowden; he arrived at Massowah on the 9th of February, 1862, and in July following reached Gondar. Here he took up the negotiations which Mr. Plowden had left incomplete. The Emperor "said voluntarily that he had well considered the subject of a treaty, about which there would be no difficulty, but that at present his mind was full of other things; also that, if matters went well, he would gladly receive a consul." He then wrote a letter to the Queen, in which he thanked her for her presents, received by Consul Cameron, and asked her to arrange for the safe passage of his ambassadors to her. This letter reached London on the 12th of February, 1863, inclosed in a letter from Capt. Cameron, dated Godjam, October 31, 1862. In June, 1863, Capt. Cameron returned to Gondar, from a long expedition to Bogos and the northern frontier of Abyssinia, whither he had been sent by the British Government, "to see about cotton, trade, and so forth"; and, on asking permission to return to Massowah, encountered the just displeasure of the Emperor, on account of his letter to the Queen not having been answered, and Earl Russell's lukewarmness with regard to the Abyssinians at Jerusalem, which led to their convent there being plundered. On the 15th of October following the fury of the Emperor broke out, the servants of the missionary, Mr. Stern, were beaten to death, and Mr. Stern himself was severely handled. On the 22nd of November Mr. Kerans arrived at Gondar, bringing despatches from the Foreign Office to Consul Cameron, without any letter to the Emperor, but with a fatuous order to the Consul to return immediately to Massowah. The result was such as might have been anticipated. "The Consul had previously had his hands only half bound; they were now bound altogether." From that day to the accession to office of Lord Stanley the time passed in humiliating attempts on the part of the Foreign Office to conciliate the enraged Emperor, and obtain the release of the unfortunate English consul and the other English subjects who have been imprisoned with him, and in still more miserable and degrading struggles to palliate to the public, and in Parliament, blunders which can never be repaired, and which must ever remain on record in one of the most disgraceful pages in the history of English diplomacy.

After this brief sketch of the principal events connected with the relations between



the British and Abyssinian Governments and with the imprisonment of the British captives in Abyssinia, we come to consider the view taken by Dr. Beke of these matters as gathered from the book before us. It may be premised that there is no man living whose opinion on the subject is so valuable as that of Dr. Beke, seeing that he has himself travelled throughout the length and breadth of Abyssinia with safety and success, has had large experience in dealing with Eastern chieftains, and is a thorough Englishman, having the welfare of his country at heart; not one who, under the cloak of cosmopolitan sympathies, disguises indifference to all but self. Dr. Beke, then, clearly thinks that an English Minister for Foreign Affairs could not consistently with his duty have neglected attempts to establish friendly relations with Abyssinia. It may suit those who have embroiled this Government with the Emperor Théodoros, to represent Abyssinia as a barbarous and contemptible state; but let us examine the matter more impartially. Abyssinia, extending over seven degrees of latitude and nine of longitude, occupies about 250,000 square miles of the richest soil in the world. It has been ruled by an uninterrupted succession of kings for at least twenty centuries, and for more than 1,500 years has been a Christian country,—the only Christian state in the whole continent of Africa. Its people, who, according to M. Lejean, number four millions and a half, have maintained their creed and their liberty against hordes of savages and the unintermitting attacks of those not less merciless but more politic barbarians, the Turks. Independently of the commercial advantages which might result from an alliance with a country so rich in natural resources as Abyssinia, such a connexion would open the door to the exploration of Central Africa, while the salubrious climate of Abyssinia itself, so suited to the European constitution, might lead to emigration from the West. Above all, the designs of France on Egypt as manifested under the First Napoleon by the open attempt to conquer the country, and ever since by the intrigues which have been carried on to obtain a paramount influence there, would naturally turn the thoughts of English politicians towards the acquisition of a counterbalancing influence in a region which dominates the Red Sea, and affords a base for operations against Egypt itself.

According to Dr. Beke, therefore, it was the true policy of England to establish and maintain friendly relations with Abyssinia, and the consolidation of the empire under Théodoros afforded a golden opportunity for securing a permanent influence in the country. The Emperor looked to England for support against his natural and implacable enemies, the Turks, also against the French, who, after incessant intrigues, had, in May, 1862, planted themselves at Obokh, a few miles from Tajurah, whence runs the direct road from the Red Sea coast to Shoa. The policy of the English Government has of late years been so timid as regards the French, that no one would expect open support to be given to a ruler at variance with them. But indirectly it would have been easy to have done for Théodoros all that he required. The prestige which would have been imparted to his cause simply by the English Government maintaining a friendly connexion with him would have carried him through his difficulties. In his letter to the Queen, he asked no more than could have been frankly accorded. A gracious answer ought to have been returned immediately, in which he should have been informed that the British Consul-General in Egypt had been instructed to remonstrate, in the strongest manner, with

the Pasha for his aggressions on the Abyssinian frontier, and for his culpable encouragement of the slave-trade. The reply should further have acquainted Théodoros with the fact of the transmission of a steamer to Massowah to receive the ambassadors he was desirous of sending to England. These ambassadors, no doubt, would have been sent, and Consul Cameron might have accompanied them to Massowah, or even to England. A treaty might then have been negotiated, and a British Consulate established in the place recommended by Dr. Beke—that is, in Tigré, on the edge of the table-land towards the coast, within a few marches from Massowah, whence assistance could always have been procured, and to which, in case of danger, it would have been easy to retire. What, however, was the course adopted by Earl Russell with regard to the letter of Théodoros? As if the Foreign Office did not possess intelligence enough to reply to it, Earl Russell, or his Under Secretary, transmitted it to the India Office, and then forgot all about it; instead of answering it, sent ridiculous orders to Consul Cameron to return to Massowah. Did not the person who penned those orders know that Mr. Coffin incurred extreme danger in 1841, when sent by Ras Ubye to the Queen with presents, for coming back without a return present? Was it likely that the haughty and impetuous Théodoros, who had imprisoned the Coptic Patriarch and the French Consul, would be more indulgent to Capt. Cameron under like circumstances?

The strictures of Dr. Beke on the conduct of Earl Russell as regards the letter of the Abyssinian Emperor are, no doubt, severe, but, we fear, they must be accepted as unanswerable. Whatever arguments may be used in defence of the Ministers who dealt with that letter, the fact remains that they contrived to exasperate a Prince who had been at first singularly favourable to the English, and ended by reducing this country to the humiliating necessity of petitioning for favours from him after he had heaped the grossest insults and injuries on its representatives. The worst of it is, that every step that has been taken to retrieve our position lands us further in the difficulty. What, for instance, was the use of Mr. Palgrave's expedition to Egypt? What has Mr. Rassam effected, save an increase to the number of the captives? Had Dr. Beke's mission been accepted and promoted by Earl Russell, a different result might have accrued. Dr. Beke knew how to manage Théodoros; and, in such a case, management is everything. But the Foreign Office would neither assist Dr. Beke nor be assisted by him. Even the most serious matters have their ludicrous side; and it is difficult to restrain a laugh at reading such correspondence as Dr. Beke's letter of July the 21st to Earl Russell.

The question remains, what is now to be done? Théodoros, though, perhaps, his fortunes are not so utterly desperate as some imagine, has fallen from his high estate. Tigré and Shoa are again independent. Tadela Gwala, who first showed that the Emperor was not invincible, derides him from his impregnable fort of Djibella. The captives, shut up in Amba Magdala, are surrounded by banditti, who may at any moment become the arbiters of their fate. Is England to be indebted to chance, or to the cupidity of robbers, for the rescue of its representatives? Shall we once more trust to the Emperor's good faith, and permit the engineers and artisans to repair to Metemneh, in the hope that Consul Cameron and the other captives may be sent there in exchange for them; or shall we be warned by the fate of Mr. Rassam? Shall we not rather take a more decided course? It has

been clearly ascertained that the road from Massowah into Tigré is quite practicable. Would it not be better to send an ambassador, with an escort, to treat with Théodoros? Twelve hundred horse, two thousand infantry, a brigade of guns and a couple of mortars, would suffice for the escort. The distance from Massowah to Amba Magdala is about 280 miles. It would be unnecessary to go so far. Théodoros is sagacious; and the release of the captives and a treaty of friendship might be arranged with him, under such circumstances, without crossing the Takkazye.

#### OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

*Half Round the Old World. Being some Account of a Tour in Russia, the Caucasus, Persia, and Turkey, 1865-66.* By Viscount Pollington, M.A. (Moxon & Co.)

Lord Pollington has put a girdle half round the world, as light and fleeting as that of Ariel. We do not know to what to liken his travel-pictures, except to a series of soap-bubbles, light and bright, which burst with the handling and leave no trace behind. We have read his book, we have followed his course on the map, we have smiled very often as we have turned over his pages, we have been amused, and we have nothing to reveal. We know, however, that a journey has been made by Lord Pollington and a friend, a journey with some hard, uncomfortable bits in it, but all manfully, good-humouredly and successfully accomplished. Our author left London "on the 14th of July in the year of grace 1865." He went to Petersburg, to Moscow, to Nijni, and down the Volga to Astrakhan, then by steamer to Petrovskoi, and so by Telega to Piatigorsk, Tiflis and Julfa, then by horse to Tehrán, Shíráz, Bushire, by steamer to Baghdad, and by horse again to Samsum, and so to Constantinople, where, on the 12th of April, 1866, farewell is said to the reader. Lord Pollington's pages are, he tells us, "an almost exact transcription" of his diary, and no doubt faithfully represent his impressions. Nevertheless, we have some few things to note against him. A little inquiry would have saved him from making blunders which, though not very important, for there is nothing important in the book, would better have been avoided; for what says the Arabic proverb? "To know is better than to be ignorant." Take as specimens of these mistakes the names of the stages from Tabriz to Tehrán, which are so disguised that no one would recognize them. Thus Cay, Hadjalah and Danadgar are intended to represent Safiyádábád, Háji Aghá, and Dáwatgar. The Naclowzum river is, we suppose, the Kizil Auzun. Neekbakh is Nikpib, and Sharsban ought to be written Sarcham. "The curious animals with the tails of lizards and the bodies of toads," are, we presume, iguanas, and "the rat-like animals with bushy tails," jerboas. Two shíshis, not "two shis," make one penny. "The little insect which infests Meenacee," or rather Mágánaj, is not a cimex at all, but the *Acarus Persicus*, and its bite is declared by higher authority than Dr. Cornick to be extremely poisonous. In speaking of the races at Tehrán, Lord Pollington tells us that if a horse not belonging to the king should win, "the jockey and owner are bastinadoed." We believe this statement to be quite without foundation, and it is surely very unfair to make such random assertions. Goldsmid, not Goldsmith, is the name of the officer who made the adventurous journey to Yezd and Kermán of which Lord Pollington speaks. There are many more mistakes like the few we have noticed; but let these samples suffice.

*Bacon's Descriptive Handbook of America: comprising History, Geography, Agriculture, Manufactures, Commerce, Railways, Mining, Finance, Government, Politics, Education, Religion, Characteristics, Public Lands, Laws, &c.* By George Washington Bacon and William George Larkins. (Bacon & Co.)

TRAVELLERS and other persons wishing for such information about Canada and the United States as they may reasonably expect to find in a guide-book

for tourists, may be recommended to buy this volume, which contains some good maps, and a serviceable collection of statistics relating to the subjects mentioned in its title.

*Annual Report of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution: showing the Operations, Expenditures, and Condition of the Institution for the Year 1865.* (Washington, Government Printing Office.)

THE most important item of the contents of this report is a well-executed translation of 'Palafites; or, Lacustrine Construction of the Lake of Neufchâtel,' by E. Desor, with Designs by Prof. A. Favre-Guillarmod. Another notable contribution is C. A. Alexander's translation of 'Electro-Physiology: a Course of Lectures by Prof. Carlo Matteucci, Senator,' Turin, 1861.

*Italy. Handbook for Travellers.* In Three Parts. By K. Baedeker. (Coblenz, Baedeker; London, Williams & Norgate.)

A word of welcome is due to these unpretending and carefully-executed guide-books. Compared with the manuals on which our forefathers bent on "the Grand Tour" relied, the immense advance of common sense, information and intelligence manifested in the "guide"-books of this our century must strike the fondest lover of old times. He will, possibly, owe them a grudge, as having contributed towards the gathering of those crowds on the Continent whose presence, it cannot be denied, destroys some of the pleasure of the thoughtful traveller. But he cannot dispute their vast superiority. The volumes before us, though they will not supersede Mr. Murray's Red Books, are among the best in the library of instruction for the tourist.

*Popular Taste: founded on the Principles of Progress and Civilization.* By Richard Pearson. (Porteus Brothers.)

THE author of 'Pearson's Hints on the Married State,' a work that has unfortunately passed from our recollection, gives us on the present occasion his views respecting popular taste in matters pertaining to religion, morals, etiquette, dress, literature, and the fine arts. "Taste," says the didactic gentleman in his first chapter, "is a compound faculty, resembling conscience in its component parts, and may with propriety be called the Conscience of Becoming. Its simple elements are the judgment combined with the feeling of consistency, which responds to the decisions of the judgment when it is exercised on what is becoming and unbecoming. The component parts of conscience are the judgment combined with a feeling of rectitude, which, when it is in a healthy state, responds to the decisions of the judgment, when it is exercised about what is right and what is wrong." To hint that the author does not know what he means might be deemed a deviation from the strict line of good taste; but we may venture to confess our inability to catch the meaning of his words. Having given us this definition, Mr. Pearson goes on to show his own good taste by railing at the trivial and insignificant fashions of the day with a warmth of feeling that is scarcely justified by such unimportant topics. "For men," he observes in a chapter upon dress, "of intelligence and education to turn the collars of their shirts down because their neighbours do so, presents them in a very weak and ludicrous light, were it not for the habit; or at one time to wear a hat with a brim which nearly covers the shoulders, and at another time so narrow that it appears almost brimless. For a few years past the zeal to grow large quantities of hair about the face has gradually developed into hair-mania." Wandering away to another object of his detestation, this philosophic shaver and wearer of "gills" remarks: "But apart from the unbecoming associations of the re-appearance of crinoline, the use of it itself violates every principle of personal taste. It is inconsistent with the exercise of personal modesty, which a lady cannot afford to trifle with by any licence, without doing injustice to herself. By its mathematical proportions it appeals too much to the senses to be in harmony with that natural delicacy which should find its highest expression in a virtuous lady." In his chapter on literary taste he is kind enough to inform us that

"the term literature is derived from *littera*, a letter"; and having thus securely grounded the student in the learning of the subject he takes occasion to say, "The present age in Britain will be distinguished from every other age since the Reformation for its scanty supply of permanent literature,"—a judgment that would be more depressing than it is under existing circumstances, if the judge's style contained indications that he ever wasted any of his valuable time over those productions of contemporary literature that are most likely to win the approbation of the intelligent and learned men of future ages.

*A Reprint of Jones's Directory; or, Useful Pocket Companion for the Year 1789. Containing an Alphabetical List of the Names and Places of Abode of the Merchants, Manufacturers, Traders, and Shopkeepers in and about the City of Glasgow.* With Introduction and Notes. (Glasgow, Maclehose.)

A year or two ago, a northern newspaper, a century old, was reprinted; and it fell into the hands of a couple, who, seeing in it an advertisement for a man and his wife as butler and housekeeper, applied for the situations, and were quite grieved to find they were a little too late! A similar mistake might be made by a stranger, in a hurry, with this reprint. There would be a mournful "Not at home since 1800," or "Left in 1796," or replies which would be as good as sermons to the inquirer who should knock and not find what he sought. If he wishes to leave for Edinburgh, he must not expect to find an Edinburgh coach starting from the Saracen's Head at nine o'clock in the morning, or at any other time agreed on by the first two passengers. It would be fruitless to call on Tom Graham, writer, east side Virginia Street, and expect to find the "Lord Chesterfield" of Glasgow, as he was called, in the flesh and superfluity of courtesy. Capt. Paton, the old beau, lives not in the Trongate, but in song; and he has removed to the churchyard; while "Lord George," or John Paterson, is as speechless as the once noisy Gordon from whom he acquired the title, in consequence of the active part he took when Lord George Gordon was traversing the country in a crusade against Popery, which ended in leaving him a Jew!

We have on our table *The Joint-Stock Companies' Directory for 1865* (Barker & Sons).—*Authorized Report of the Church Congress, held at York on the 9th, 10th, and 11th October, 1866* (Rivingtons).—*The Water of Life, and other Sermons*, by the Rev. Charles Kingsley (Macmillan).—*Sermons*, by Gabriel, Bishop of Imereth, on Faith, Eternal Punishments, and other Subjects, translated from the Georgian by the Rev. S. C. Malan, M.A. (Saunders & Otley).—*Conversations on the Bible and Science*, by the Rev. Edwin Sidney, A.M. (Jarrold & Sons).—*Things rarely Met with*, by James Erasmus Phillips, M.A. (Rivingtons). New Editions: *Charles Waterton: his Home, Habits, and Handiwork*, by Richard Hobson, M.D. (Whittaker).—*Army Misrule*, by a Common Soldier (Chapman & Hall).—*The Engineer's, Mining Surveyor's, and Contractor's Field Book*, by W. Davis Haskoll (Lockwood).—*Outlines of English History*, by Henry Ince, M.A., and James Gilbert (Kent).—*Over the Cliffs*, by Charlotte Chanter (Smith & Elder). Also the following Pamphlets: *Sermons preached to Working People*, by the Very Rev. the Dean of Westminster, the Revs. Henry Allon, Edward White, James Hamilton, D.D., Samuel Martin, R. W. Dale, M.A., A. Macconnell, B.A., and Mark Wilks (Miall).—*Ritualism; or, True Church Views*, by the Rev. Charles Hebert, M.A. (Dalton & Lucy).—*The Roots of Ritualism and the Remedy: a Letter to the Right Hon. the Earl of Derby, K.G.*, by the Hon. and Rev. E. V. Bligh, M.A. (Macintosh).—*St. Paul a Witness to the Resurrection: a Sermon preached before the University of Oxford*, by the Rev. Herbert Haines, M.A. (Parker & Co.).—*Pre-Existence and Future Existence; or, the Soul created in the Image of God changed in Form, but not in Identity*, Free Translation and Abridgment from Andréa Pizzani (Ridgway).—*Will ye also go Away? a Sermon preached before the University of Oxford*, by

the Rev. E. B. Pusey, D.D. (Parker).—*The Mass: Needful Information concerning it* (Shaw).—*A Reply to the Christian Observer. Art. II. The Plymouth Brethren*, by William Kelly (Moorish).—*A Committee on Pews: the Prize Essay on Freedom of Worship*, by the Rev. T. R. Vernon, M.A. (Bosworth).—*Sunday Evenings for the People. Siam and the Siamese: a Discourse delivered by Sir John Bowring, at St. Martin's Hall, on February the 17th, 1867* (Trübner).—*A View of Parliamentary Reform*, by a Reformer (Wallingford, Payne).—*On Household Suffrage, Triennial Parliaments, and Reform of the House of Commons, based upon sound Constitutional Principles, with Supplementary Remarks*, by Dr. George Bodington (Ridgway).—*The Only Way to obtain the Parliamentary and Political Reforms which we now need* (Published for the Author).—*The Government of England, its Structure and its Development*, by W. E. Hearn, LL.D. (Melbourne, Robertson).—*No Vote no Rate; or, Household Suffrage made at once Safe and Popular: a Proposal made to Parliament in 1850, and renewed in 1867*, by G. Poulett Scrope, M.P. (Ridgway).

#### LIST OF NEW BOOKS.

Adams's *The Boy makes the Man*, 12mo. 2/6 cl.  
Anderson's *Antiquities of Croydon Church*, illus. royal 8vo. 7/6 cl.  
Carter's *Devout Christian's Help*, Part 2, 'Lent,' 12mo. 2/6 swd.  
Coble's *Confessions of a Lost Dog*, 8vo. 2/6 cl.  
Europe, *Letters by Vigil*, 8vo. 1/6 swd.  
Hymns, Ancient and Modern (Annotated Edition), 12/6 cl.  
Imperial Paris Guide, edit. by Cole, 12mo. 1/6 swd.  
John's Blind People, post 8vo. 7/6 cl.  
Kingston's *Taking Tales for Cottage Homes*, 12mo. 1/6 cl.  
Lawson's *Injuries of the Eye, Orbit, and Eyelids*, 8vo. 12mo. 12/6 cl.  
Lloyd's *Game and Wild Fowl of Sweden and Norway*, roy. 8vo. 42/6 cl.  
Midshipman (The) and the Minister, fcap. 8vo. 2/6 cl.  
Moore's *The Seven Cries from Calvary*, 8vo., cr. 8vo. 3/6 cl.  
Neale's *Sermons for Children*, 12mo. 3/6 cl.  
Plumptre's *Christ and Christendom* (Boyle Lectures, 1866), 12/6 cl.  
Pope's *Poetical Works*, Life by Lupton, 12mo. 2/6 cl.  
Ranken's *Simple Sermons*, 12mo. 5/6 cl.  
Recamier (Mme.), *Memoirs of*, post 8vo. 7/6 cl.  
Ross (C. H.), *A Week with Mossoo*, 8vo. 12mo. 1/6 swd.  
Smith's *School of Art. Practical Geometry*, 2 parts, cr. 8vo. 2/6 swd.  
Story of a Bee and her Friends, told by herself, 8vo. 2/6 cl.  
Williams's *Broadchalse, Sermon Essays*, cr. 8vo. 7/6 cl.  
Wood's *Stories from Greek Mythology*, 12mo. 1/6 cl.

#### DR. LIVINGSTONE.

NOTHING decisive has yet been heard from Zanzibar as to the fate of Dr. Livingstone. The latest letter received in England is from his former companion in travel, Dr. Kirk. It gives us the last news of our adventurous countryman, and will be read with interest by every one concerned about his well-being. Dr. Kirk writes:—

"Dr. Livingstone had told us in despatches of the 8th of May that north of the Rovuma, beyond the confluence, the Mavite, those emigrant Zulus mentioned by us as seen to the north-west of Nyassa, and as having migrated from the south of the Zambesi about forty years ago, were devastating the whole country. He remained some time with the chief of Ngomano, at the confluence of the Niende (or Loende) and the Rovuma. He advanced from Ngomano, first through level forest land, thinly peopled, and afterwards through a mountainous region inhabited by the Waiao and Makua tribes, among whom he found good treatment instead of treachery. But his party at the same time became thinner. The Bombay Marines collapsed, all but the Havildar, who followed his chief when the rest of his men returned to the coast. Some of the educated natives also absconded. He went on with the remaining Africans, the Johanna men and the Havildar. The country he was in possessed a cool climate, and was peopled by scattered villagers, ruled by chiefs of considerable power, rich in cattle.

"He arrived on the eastern shore of Nyassa at a place where the lake seems to have been narrow, and, what is more wonderful, shallow; but take native tales for what they may be worth. It is commonly asserted by the survivors that they were taken across in canoes propelled chiefly by means of large bamboos, and that embarking in the morning they had all crossed by noon. The shore on both sides was flat, but hills appeared to the south. I believe this was a little to the north of where I have placed the end of the lake in the map I communicated to the Royal Geographical Society, and which is published in the *Journal*, vol. XXXV. Livingstone's first object, we know, was to determine the northern limits of Lake Nyassa. I conclude that he had satisfied himself of



this point at once, for had he not, most assuredly he would have taken canoes and followed up the water to the north. Certainly he would not have turned his back upon it and advanced beyond into what he well knew to be a dangerous region, to encounter or chance a meeting with those savages who had once before turned his route.

"My impression is, he had satisfied himself that this shallow (if shallow it be) continuation of Nyassa did not reach far, that it was of no importance, and therefore probably had no current. He crossed it with the intention, as he told us, of pushing on to Tanganyika from Nyassa, if all went well. The desertion of some men and the death and invaliding of others had so weakened his party that he must have seen that a return to the Rovuma confluence would have closed the present expedition. He knew that his chance was, having got the men, to keep them marching on, further from home and the hope of a successful flight. On the west of the lake the villagers were civil and warned him of the Mavite in front, with whom they were at war. These seem to be the same Mavite who send out marauding expeditions to the south of Nyassa and eastward, even to within eight days' march of Quiloa. Their language is still Zulu, although the blood is mixed by intermingling with the captive races they have subdued. From Mapunda, on the west side of the narrow portion of the lake, they marched to the chief, Marenga, two days' journey distant. Marenga was civil and ferried the party over a marshy tract, which they might have gone round by a detour. The outlying villagers warned them that the Mavite were out, but Dr. Livingstone heeded not what they said; indeed, since leaving Ngomano he had been marching in a land full of fear and dread, and no doubt had come to look on the Mavite as few and far between, and the chance of meeting with them small; or possibly he had determined to go straight at their head-quarters, and thus try to reach their chief. When he had journeyed a day and a half from Marenga, about 9 A.M., the party was suddenly attacked in plain ground, covered with grass three feet high, and scattered jungle of forest and bush. Just at this time they seem to have been in a thicket, so that the Johanna men at a little distance behind did not see Dr. Livingstone and the boys in front. Moosa, the head man of the Johanna party, did, and witnessed the scene from behind a tree. Dr. Livingstone, who had just emptied his gun, endeavoured to reload, while three Mavite appeared close on him, and one of them cut him down with one blow of an axe, which pierced the neck and caused instant death. As he sank the head dropped forward. Moosa ran off, and it is very doubtful, on his own showing, whether the enemy saw him. Meeting the others, who had been warned by the shots, they all fled to a distance, where they remained concealed until evening, when, returning to seek for the loads they had cast down, and not finding them, they advanced cautiously, and saw the body of their leader where it had fallen, with but one wound in the back of the neck; the upper clothes had been stripped, and everything carried off. We are at the mercy of our informants, but they tell a tale such as I believe, for had they invented it they would have made a story more to their credit. Nothing has come to us, not a relic or thing to show, and none but Johanna men have returned; yet I think their position behind, and the fact of their escaping before being seen, may account for this."

#### AFRICAN DISCOVERY.

March 26, 1867.

THE various letters which have recently appeared relating to the reported death of Dr. Livingstone all repeat and tend to establish one of the most remarkable of that traveller's many mistakes. That the Zulus (Amazulu), natives of the country on the northern frontier of the colony of Natal, are also to be found on both sides of Lake Nyassa, is a statement so startling as to awaken the incredulity of all who feel an interest in correct and authentic geography. Let us look, then, at the grounds on which it rests. Dr. Livingstone, in his last volume, tells us that he "never saw anything like the dense

population on the shores of Lake Nyassa. In the southern part there was an almost unbroken chain of villages," while the adjacent high land to the north "was partially occupied by a tribe of Zulus who came from the south, some years ago" ("The Zambesi and its Tributaries," p. 372). Again, he says of the same people: "The Mazitu live in the highlands. They are Zulus who came originally from the south, inland of Sofala and Inhambane" (p. 381). Now, the countries here indicated are tranquil and very populous. It is reported that industry and civilization have made some progress in the country south-west of Sofalah. How, then, can we believe that a band of savage warriors made their way, some years ago, through these countries, across the Portuguese colony, and settled on the borders of a dense population in so stealthy a manner as totally to escape notice? Migrations of savage hordes often occur in Africa, in consequence of famine; but their course is well known far and wide, being marked by ruin and extermination. That the Mazitu were Zulus seems to have been inferred chiefly from the shape and size of their shields. Yet the traveller was not free from doubt respecting the justness of his conclusion. "So great," he remarks, "is the terror this shield inspires, that we sometimes doubted whether the Mazitu here were Zulus at all, and suspected that the people of the country took advantage of that fear, and, assuming the shields, pretended to belong to that nation" (p. 557). But, meeting with a body of Mazitu, he had an opportunity of examining them closely, and "all were observed, by their teeth, to be natives of the country, who had been incorporated into the Zulu tribe. .... The object of their raids in general is, that the captured women and children may be embodied into the tribe and become Zulus" (p. 385). Thus we find that the appearances which first guided Dr. Livingstone's judgment were fallacious, and the Mazitu were "all people of the country"; and as to their incorporation with, or transformation into Zulus, these are merely the phrases which serve to cover, like Zulu shields, the obstinate retention of a groundless opinion. If the people of the country about the lake can so easily become Zulus, there is obviously no need of supposing a migration of the latter people from the south.

But Mazitu, the name given to these people, has not the form of a gentile noun; and Dr. Livingstone had this defect in view when, in one place (p. 498), he calls them Azitu. Well aware of the discriminating structure of the Zingian language, he yet seems never to have aimed at an accurate knowledge of its local variations, and was ready to borrow corrupt names from his Makololo followers, or from the Creole Portuguese, who habitually reject the inflexions of the native language. From the latter source he got the word "Mazitu," which signifies woods or forests. The "wa Mazitu" are the people "of the woods," or Bushmen, that is, the lawless marauders who live at large beyond the authority of the village chiefs. Banditti of this kind are found in all parts of Africa. But there is no such nation as the Mazitu, and no sufficient reason for believing that Amazulu are established anywhere north of Delagoa Bay. It is worthy of remark, that, in Dr. Livingstone's last letter from Ngomano, he speaks doubtfully of "the Mazitu" as "perhaps Zulus." But the light which had begun to break on his mind has evidently not yet reached his admirers.

W. D. COOLEY.

#### GROUPING OF BOROUGHS.

Lincoln's Inn, March 26, 1867.

THE interest of the public at the present time in having accurate information respecting the working of the system of "grouped boroughs" will, doubtless, be deemed by you a good reason for admitting a correction of some misapprehensions into which, in the *Athenæum* of last week, the reviewer of my Essay on Redistribution of Seats has himself fallen, while charging me with being "evidently very imperfectly informed" on the matter.

The introduction of the grouping system in Scotland was not due, as your reviewer states it, to the desire in the Act of 1832 of avoiding disfranchisement of the small boroughs. The groups—"districts of burghs," as they are called in Scotland—were in

existence from, and even anterior to, the Union, and were very slightly modified in 1832. A few of the largest towns then got separate representation; and Peebles, Selkirk, and Rothsay were transferred from burgh districts to their respective counties. The great change which the Reform Bill of 1832 introduced in Scotland was the opening up of the franchise to the inhabitants; it had formerly been exercised only by the close corporations of the several burghs. Your reviewer then proceeds to say that the grouping system has thrown the burghs into the hands of local "writers," or attorneys, who nurse the electors as a farmer nurses his calves, and who introduce the candidates who pay them best, and that consequently the expenses are very heavy. A recent Parliamentary Return shows, however, that the expenses of contested elections are, compared with the average of English boroughs and counties, very moderate. As to the "nursing" by attorneys, I must assume that your reviewer is acquainted with some boroughs in which it exists; but I can positively affirm, knowing most of the districts of burghs by reputation, and many of them personally and intimately, that such a system is not general, for I know of none in which it is to be found. For the most part, the burgh electors are singularly independent in their judgment, and very little subject to any local leaders, whether "writers" or others. The Falkirk district, which your reviewer suggests I may profitably inquire into, is the exception to this rule, to which I expressly refer at page 148; but as its corruption arose from purely local causes, it would scarcely be profitable to the public to explain its origin.

With regard to the English "groups" in which the reviewer states that the principle has failed,—*"Sandwich, Deal and Walmer," "Falmouth and Penryn," "Monmouth, Newport and Usk,"*—it may be remarked that, as they are all small, and either closely united in point of locality, or including one borough so large that the others are powerless, they do not exemplify the principle of grouping which I laid down; and which calls for constituencies of reasonable size, and comprising towns of diversified local influences. These remarks apply also to the Welsh group, which you cite as under the influence of a landowner in the neighbourhood. The addition of large rural districts to some boroughs, such as Retford, I did not comment upon, because, as the context shows, I was dealing only with "towns," and making no attempt to adjust the details, either of groups or of town boundaries. Of course, such anomalies would have no place in an amended system. But the towns which really exist within the limits of these artificial boroughs (e.g. in Retford, that town itself, and Worksop, which is within its present limits, though eight miles from it) might form, with others outside, members of a group, and thus, if sufficiently extended, recover by counterpoise of forces their independence.

J. BOYD KINNEAR.

\* \* Under the semblance of "correcting some misapprehensions," one of the Reform Essayists invites us to a discussion of the Scotch borough-grouping system—a subject better adapted to a political journal. But, we may observe, that Mr. Kinnear more than justifies our observation, last week, that he is "very imperfectly informed on the matter." Take his primary position, that "the existing groups of boroughs in Scotland were in existence from the Union, and were slightly modified in 1832." Why, the "Royal Burghs," as they were called, in Scotland, anterior to the Reform Act, were as different from the Scotch boroughs of the present day as they well could be. For example, before the Reform Act, the city of Aberdeen was united in a group with such unknown places as Inverbervie, Aberbrothie and Brechin. It had five voters, out of a population of 44,000! and its members were two nominees returned by the Duke of Gordon and Lord Panmure. The city of Perth was united with such distant places as Forfar, Dundee, Cupar and St. Andrews; it had five voters, under the control of the Earl of Breadalbane and Sir David Wedderburn. The great city of Glasgow was grouped with the petty towns of Renfrew, Rutherglen and Dumbarton; its voters were four, it returned one member, and was pos-



sessed by the family of Campbell! So with several other burghs which the Reform Act constituted separate electorals, and of which Mr. Kinnear has the assurance to say that they were "very slightly modified in 1832. We were quite right in saying that the re-adjustment of 1832 "was introduced to save from disfranchisement a number of small towns in Scotland, which must otherwise have been included, on the principle of the English bill, in Schedule A." To dispute such a fact is really to attempt to deceive our readers. Scarcely any of the small towns now remaining in these Scotch groups would be entitled to separate enfranchisement; and many of the groups (the districts of St. Andrews, Stirling, Wick, &c., for example) have so declined in population, between 1832 and 1867, as to leave it doubtful if they ought to retain any representative whatsoever.

Mr. Kinnear's Scotch sympathies fully account for his attempt to defend the Scotch groups and their electorates from charges of corruption, though he admits our position respecting the important burgh of Falkirk. But we are surprised that he should dispute that these groups of burghs are "nursed." Every one acquainted with their electoral condition knows the contrary; and, indeed, their returns since 1832 have proved the fact. To cite parliamentary papers, as showing the moderate character of the election expenses in these or any other burghs, is another illustration of the "Essayist's" innocence. Except Mr. Kinnear, all the world knows that the returns of election expenses presented to Parliament are utterly untrustworthy and most delusive.

Perhaps the strongest condemnation of the Scotch grouping system is to be found in the contrast presented by the "grouped burghs" of Scotland, with the returns from their large and independent burghs. Who would compare the electoral system of the Kirkcaldy, Falkirk, Inverness, Wick or Wigton groups with the representative system as developed in the large burghs of Glasgow, Aberdeen, Dundee, Greenock, Perth or Paisley? As a rule, these large and separate constituencies make the best use of their electoral privileges, whilst the small grouped burghs are evidently interested by very different considerations.

If Mr. Kinnear understood the question, he would treat it from a very different point of view. He would look to large towns, and not to small grouped places, as the true seats of independent representation, whether in Scotland or elsewhere. He would see that the small grouped burghs of Scotland, having diverse local interests and influences, have not the same independent control in the return of members, or the same independent influence over them when returned, that constituencies exercise in a separate town. He would examine how far it is desirable that a representative should be elected for scattered communities, scarcely united by any common ties; towns which, as Mr. Kinnear admits, "are more apt to be rivals than partners." He would inquire how far local jealousies are created by this system, and how far representatives foster such jealousies, so as to enable them to keep their seats, contrary to the general wish of those they represent. Our own impression, derived from a pretty general acquaintance with the Scottish burghs, is, that it works very much to the disadvantage of the independence of those burghs; and, if space permitted, it would be easy to prove it.

As to our English burghs, Mr. Kinnear does not in any way meet our observations; but we regret to repeat that he shews himself utterly ignorant respecting them. His excuses for not having discussed the cases we have cited are obviously faulty and imperfect. We regret it, if he thinks we have spoken harshly of his essay; for it is not the desire of the *Athenæum* to deal harshly with any writer who has good intentions. But, really, gentlemen who do not understand these questions should not write "essays" on them. And all Mr. Kinnear's observations show that he is quite unacquainted with our English burghs. The cases we cited of grouped burghs in England—the cases of Sandwich, Falmouth, Monmouth, &c.—are not, as he assumes, the cases of "small"

burghs. Not one of these burghs has ever been treated as too small for electoral representation. The smallest of them is larger than the grouped burgh of Wigton, and as large as most of the Scotch groups. But Mr. Kinnear does not even seem to be aware that Lord John Russell's Reform Bill of 1832 proposed, in a very elaborate form, to group the English burghs after the principle he is advocating, and that the impracticability of this principle (as demonstrated very forcibly at the time) was the main cause of the withdrawal of that measure.

#### VISIBLE SPEECH.

18, Harrington Square, March 21, 1867.

I shall be glad if you will allow me to inform your readers that, as none of the State Departments has been able to take "official cognizance" of the proposition which I made for a free promulgation of "Visible Speech," I have determined to furnish the scientific world with the requisite opportunities for a full investigation of the invention, by publishing an Inaugural Edition as an ordinary copyright. Arrangements may be made hereafter for a popular introduction of the New System of Letters. At present, the nature of the system is not understood; the title—the best I could hit on to express a new idea—seeming to many merely paradoxical. Publication will enable all parties to judge of the merits of the invention, though, unfortunately, the anomaly which I have tried to prevent will now be unavoidable, that the system may be brought into use in foreign countries before it can be so in the country of its birth. I shall be happy to forward a copy of the inclosed circular to any of your readers who may feel an interest in the forthcoming publication. Perhaps, you will let them know that the first issue of the work will be to *subscribers*.

ALEX. MELVILLE BELL.

#### SUPPLEMENT TO THE BUDGET OF PARADOXES. (No. XV.)

THE three paradoxes last named and myself have a pentasyllabic convention, under which, though we go far beyond civility, we keep within civilization. Though Mr. James Smith pronounced that I must be dishonest if I did not see his argument, which he knew I should not do [to say nothing of recent accusation]; though Dr. Thorne declared me a competitor for fire and brimstone—and my wife, too, which doubles the joke; though Mr. Reddie was certain I had garbled him, evidently on purpose to make falsehood appear truth; yet all three profess respect for me as to everything but power to see truth, or candour to admit it. And on the other hand, though these were the modes of opening communication with me, and though I have no doubt that all three are proper persons of whom to inquire whether I should go up-stairs or down-stairs, &c., yet I am satisfied they are thoroughly respectable men, as to everything but reasoning. And I dare say our several professions are far more true in extent than many which are made under more parliamentary form. We find excuses for each other: they make allowance for my being hoodwinked by Aristotle, by Newton, by the Devil; and I permit them to feel, for I know they cannot get on without it, that their reasons are such as none but a knave or a sinner can resist. But they are content with cutting a slice each out of my character: neither of them is more than an uncle, a Bone-a-part; I now come to a dreadful nephew, Bone-the-whole.

I will not give the name of the poor fellow who has fallen so far below both the *honestum* and the *utile*, to say nothing of the *decorum* or the *dulce*. He is the fourth who has taken elaborate notice of me; and my advice to him would be, *Nec quarta loqui persona laboret*. According to him, I scorn humanity, scandalize learning, and disgrace the press; it admits of no manner of doubt that my object is to mislead the public and silence truth, at the expense of the interests of science, the wealth of the nation, and the lives of my fellow men. The only thing left to be settled is, whether this is due to ignorance, natural distaste for truth, personal malice, a wish to curry favour with the

Astronomer Royal, or mere toadyism. The only accusation which has truth in it is, that I have made myself a "public scavenger of science"; the assertion which is the most false of all is, that the results of my broom and spade are "shot right in between the columns of" the *Athenæum*. I declare I never in my life inserted a word between the columns of the *Athenæum*: I feel huffed and miffed at the very supposition. I have made myself a public scavenger; and why not? Is the mud never to be collected into a heap? I look down upon the other scavengers, of whom there have been a few—mere historical drudges; Montucla, Hutton, &c.—as not fit to compete with me. I say of them what one crossing-sweeper said of the rest: "They are well enough for the common thing; but put them to a bit of fancy-work, such as sweeping round a post, and see what a mess they make of it!" Who can touch me at sweeping round a paradoxer? If I complete my design of publishing a separate work, an old copy will be fished up from a stall two hundred years hence by the coming man, and will be described in an article which will end by his comparing our century with his own, and sighing out in the best New Zealand pronunciation—

Dans ces tems-là  
C'était déjà comme ça!

And pray, Sir!—I have been asked by more than one—do your orthodox never fall into mistake, nor rise into absurdity? They not only do both, but they admit it of each other very freely; individually, they are convinced of 'em, but not of any particular sin. There is not a syndoxer among them all but draws his line in such a way as to include among paradoxers a great many whom I should exclude altogether from this work. My worst specimens are but exaggerations of what may be found, occasionally, in the thoughts of sagacious investigators. At the end of the glorious dream, we learn that there is a way to Hell from the gates of Heaven, as well as from the City of Destruction; and that this is true of other things besides Christian pilgrimage is affirmed at the end of the Budget of Paradoxes. If D'Alembert had produced enough of a quality to match his celebrated mistake on the chance of throwing head in two throws, he would have been in my list. If Newton had produced enough to match his reception of the story that Nausicaa, Homer's Phæacian princess, invented the celestial sphere, followed by his serious surmise that she got it from the Argonauts,—then Newton himself would have had an appearance entered for him, in spite of the Principia. In illustration, I may cite a few words from 'Tristram Shandy':—

"A soldier," cried my uncle Toby, interrupting the Corporal, "is no more exempt from saying a foolish thing, Trim, than a man of letters.—But not so often, as please your honour," replied the Corporal. My uncle Toby gave a nod.

I now proceed to die out. Some prefatory remarks will follow in time. I shall have occasion to insist that all is not barren: I think I shall find, on casting up, that two out of five of my paradoxers are not to be utterly condemned. Among the better lot will be found all gradations of merit; at the same time, as was remarked on quite a different subject, there may be little to choose between the last of the saved and the first of the lost. The higher and better class is worthy of blame; the lower and worse class is worthy of praise. The higher men are to be reprov'd for not taking up things in which they could do some good; the lower men are to be commended for taking up things in which they can do no great harm. The circle problem is like Peter Peebles's lawsuit.—

"But, Sir, I should really spoil any cause thrust on me so hastily."—"Ye cannot spoil it, Alan," said my father, "that is the very cream of the business, man,—... the case is come to that pass that Stair or Arminion could not mend it, and I don't think even you, Alan, can do it much harm."

I am strongly reminded of the monks in the darker part of the Middle Ages. To a certain proportion of them, perhaps two out of five, we are indebted for the preservation of literature, and their contemporaries for good teaching and mitigation of social evils. But the remaining three were the fleas and flies and thistles and briars with whom

the satirist lumps them, about a century before the Reformation.—

Flen, flyss, and freris, populum domini male cedunt;  
Thystills and breeris crescentia gramina ledunt.  
Christe nolens guerras qui cuncta pace tueris,  
Destrua per terras breeris, flen, flyss, and freris.  
Flen, flyss, and freris, fowl falle hem thys tyften yeris,  
For non that her is lovit flen, flyss, ne freris.

I should not be quite so savage with my second class. Taken together, they may be made to give useful warning to those who are engaged in learning under better auspices: aye, even useful hints; for bad things are very often only good things spoiled or misused. My plan is that of a predecessor in the time of Edward the Second:—

Mecum est propositum gentis imperitæ  
Artes frugl reddere melioris vite.

To this end I have spoken with freedom of books as books, of opinions as opinions, of ignorance as ignorance, of presumption as presumption; and of writers as I judge may be fairly inferred from what they have written. Some—to whom I am therefore under great obligation—have permitted me to enlarge my plan by assaults to which I have alluded; assaults which allow a privilege of retort of which I have availed myself; assaults which give my readers a right of partnership in the amusement which I myself have received.

For the present I cut and run; a Catiline, pursued by a chorus of Ciceros, with Quousque tandem? Quamdiu nos? Nihil ne te? ending with, In te conferri pestem istam jam pridem oportebat, quam tu in nos omnes jamdiu machinaris! I carry with me the reflection that I have furnished to those who need it such a magazine of warnings as they will not find elsewhere; a *signatus caretote*: and I throw back at my pursuers—Valete, doctores sine doctrinâ; facite ut proximo congressu vos salvos corporibus et sanos mentibus videamus. Here ends the Budget of Paradoxes. A. DE MORGAN.

#### SOUTHERN ITALY.

Naples, March, 1867.

THE King's birthday was celebrated here, on the 14th inst., with one or two ceremonies, which mark the progress of the Neapolitan mind. First, the bust of the illustrious philosopher, Pasquale Galluppi, the work of Calò, was inaugurated in the rooms of the Mineralogical Museum in the University, there being a large attendance, to whom the veteran Imbriani made a long and learned address. Later in the day, the still more interesting ceremony of the distribution of prizes to the successful pupils of the Municipal People's Schools took place; very touching in all its incidents, and giving promise of much future good. In all, there are in this city seventy gratuitous schools (day and evening) for males, and thirty-eight for females. Of these, the pupils of forty schools contended for the prizes, the examinations having been conducted from the 15th of January to the 15th of February last, and with sufficient severity. The successful competitors amounted to eighty; and it was to do honour to them and to the cause of public instruction, so much needed in Southern Italy, that, in order to give greater publicity to the event, the friends of education were invited, by ticket, to assemble in the Teatro dei Fiorentini. The pit was well filled by the merchants and trading classes; and not a few artisans, and even *faccchini*, the friends of the pupils, were present; all of whom, by their enthusiastic applause, gave proof of the great satisfaction which they felt with the proceedings. Usually a royal prince has presided, but in the absence of any member of the royal family, the Prefect of the Province, the Marchese Guatterio, filled the chair, and distributed the prizes to the youths; whilst the Signora Baldacchini did the same to the girls. On the stage the Commission of the Merchants sat, surrounded by the *premiati*. One word about the merchants of Naples. All honour to them for the truly liberal and enlightened manner in which they have conducted themselves since 1860. As a body they have been foremost in supporting every measure for the public good, and that too with a moderation and good sense which have given double value to their exertions; and to no projects have they given greater assistance than to those which had for their object the instruction of the people. In their

individual capacity they have formed several most valuable schools, whilst in their corporate capacity they have been as it were nursing fathers to the gratuitous municipal schools. For several years these public *fêtes* have been given for the distribution of prizes, which have been provided principally by the commercial classes, who on this occasion subscribed 10,120 lire for the purpose, to which 500 lire were added by the Operative Society. The prizes consisted of sums of money varying from 50 to 100 lire, which were given in savings-bank books, bearing credit to the fortunate holders of them, and in books very handsomely got up.

The business of the day was opened with the Royal Hymn, which awakened no enthusiasm; the audience sitting and chatting all the time as if the most ordinary piece of music was being performed. The reading of the Report was followed by a speech from the President of the Operative Society, Signor Tavassi, marked by sound good sense. A more sensible, or (in the best sense of the term) a more conservative speech could not have been delivered by a highly-educated man; throughout the delivery of it he was greeted with bursts of applause, and at the termination of it he was sent for by the Prefect, who expressed to him his high approbation. The distribution of the prizes was a touching scene. First, the girls were called up, many belonging to the *bourgeoise*, some to the humblest classes; and as one contemplated their intelligent faces, it was impossible not to acknowledge the change which education had wrought in them since 1860. They were of almost every industrial calling, some, as was before observed, from their dress, belonging to the very poor, and the rounds of applause with which these especially were received indicated the public sympathy with the efforts of those who had to struggle hard for existence in order to obtain a little learning. Amongst the youths there were embryo tailors, coachboys, printers, barbers, masons, blacksmiths, shopboys, servants, and *faccchini*. One of them, a blacksmith, perhaps twenty-five years old, and another, a small, round ball of a little fellow, a *faccchino*, were more markedly honoured; whilst the father of the latter, who sat in the back of the theatre, in his common porter's dress, was overwhelmed with delight. At intervals, several of the pupils made short speeches, thanking the municipality and the merchants for their kindness; and one young girl distinguished herself by the recitation of some verses expressive of sympathy for the Poles. H. W.

#### HEBREW BOOKS IN THE BRITISH MUSEUM.

IN resuming our last week's notice of Mr. Zedner's Catalogue, we have to observe, that not only books written in Hebrew, but many others, more or less connected with Hebrew literature, have received a place in it. Thus, we find bibliographical works, catalogues, biographies, and the like, bearing on the subject; further, translations of post-biblical Hebrew works; and, finally, works written in Arabic, Spanish, German, and other languages, but printed in Hebrew characters, exactly as many Eastern works are now printed in English characters.

One of the most largely represented departments will be found under the heading "Liturgies," which extends over more than fifty closely-printed pages; and we may add, that the wide range of Jewish prayers is nowhere else so scientifically arranged as here. In most of the catalogues extant, they are simply thrust together with scarcely any distinction; and from this practice even the Bodleian Catalogue deviates but little. True, there are few subjects more bewildering in bibliography. The luxuriant and tangled outgrowth of the two or three formulas of thanksgiving and blessing that occur in the Pentateuch is well-nigh overpowering. From the redaction of the first Jewish Liturgy by Gaon Amram (ninth century A.D.) to the present day,—when not merely every part of the globe, but almost every country, and not rarely even cities in one and the same country, have their own special cycles or rites,—the art of composing new prayers has been cultivated more, perhaps, than any other. As the synagogue became more and more the exclusive centre of religious and national life, so the

liturgy reflected more and more the mental progress or decay of the different periods. No longer satisfied with the simple applications of old, it embodied, in more or less artificial shapes, religious doctrines, history, saga, angelology, mysticism, and whatever happened to sway the mind of the "Pai-tan," or religious poet. The want of some such supreme religious authority, as the Gaon of Babylonian times for the Babylonians, prevented the common adoption or rejection of new liturgical pieces; and thus it came to pass that each community perpetuated and propagated all the additions and changes that happened to have been introduced into it; thereby more and more widely separating itself in this respect from all its neighbours. To name but a few of the many rites specified in this Catalogue, we have those of Germany (and Poland), of France, of Spain and Portugal, of Italy, Calabria, the Levant, Greece, Algeria, Morocco; in France itself, those of Avignon, of Carpentras and Montpellier. The arrangement adopted here is simple enough. Three subdivisions, containing prayers independent of any special rite, are followed by others, which are arranged alphabetically after the names of places or rites. These again are subdivided according to the particular class of prayer. Quoting at random from the letter B, we find Baltimore, Barbadoes, Berlin, Birmingham, Bohemia, Bombay, &c., all represented by some distinctive festival prayers, occasional prayers, hymns, &c. Nothing could afford a more striking instance of the ubiquitousness and—looking at the occasions of some of these occasional prayers—of the wonderful destinies of the scattered remnants of the House of Jacob.

We would fain have dwelt upon some other topics suggested to us by this Catalogue, principally in connexion with the history of printing, the sale of books, their prices, their publishers, and the like, in the early days of typography. But we have done enough, we think, to show our high appreciation of this new work of reference in one of the least-cultivated fields of knowledge, and of the meritorious labours of Mr. Zedner, its learned compiler.

#### OUR WEEKLY GOSSIP.

WILL Lord Derby, himself an eminent man of letters, read the moral of the Young Pension mystery? No one can doubt that the Prime Minister has been seduced by the lax morality of our testimonial system into granting a pension to a man whom he feels to be unworthy of such a distinction. Mr. Disraeli complains that the minister has been hoaxed by a Roman Catholic bishop and by two literary peers. Lord Derby refuses to read any of Mr. Young's poetry, and declares it unreasonable that a First Lord of the Treasury should be expected to know whether a petitioner for the national bounty is a true poet or only a trumphy scribbler. In the case of a great scholar like Southey, of a fine poet like Tennyson, a Prime Minister, it is alleged, may know what he is doing, and may be able to give a good account of his stewardship; but how, Mr. Disraeli asks, can a minister of the Queen be expected to have read the works of such writers as Young and Close? The assertion is true, and the question is fair. But would it not be well for the literary First Lord and his colleague to lay down the principle that the Civil List pensions ought to be given in such a way as would raise no discussion and need no defence? Sir Robert Peel laid down such a principle, and the pensions granted by him are among the glories of his reign. He regarded the national vote of 1,200*l.* a year as a sum set apart for the reward of literary service, and he held that it should be given, not to the obscure writers, the Youngs and Closes, but to the most eminent—the Wordsworths, Southeys, Tennysons and Hunts. In Peel's opinion, it was a mistake to treat that special vote as a fund for the relief of persons in distress.

Under the title of 'A Song of Italy,' Mr. Swinburne is about to publish a new poem of nearly 800 lines.

The forthcoming number of Mr. Herbert Spencer's philosophical work will complete the



second and final volume of his 'Principles of Biology.' It may be looked for in the course of a week.

Messrs. Fullarton & Co. have in the press an extended Memoir of the late James Ferguson, the self-taught philosopher and astronomer, by E. Henderson, LL.D.

Mr. J. A. Langford is preparing for the press a local work of some importance, entitled 'A Century of Birmingham Life; or, a Chronicle of Local Events from 1741 to 1841.' In preparing this book Mr. Langford has had the use of the complete files of *Aris's Birmingham Gazette*, and other sources of information not generally available; as well as assistance from gentlemen intimately acquainted with the past history of the town.

Downing College, Cambridge, offers a scholarship for proficiency in the natural sciences of the value of 50*l.* per annum, with rooms and commons, making the value nearly 100*l.* per annum, tenable for three years. The examination, to commence on the 5th of June, will be open to all members of Oxford and Cambridge who have passed the previous examination or responsions, and not resided more than six terms. Further information may be obtained from the Rev. W. Pike, tutor of the College. There will be also four scholarships, to be competed for at the same time, of the value of 40*l.* per annum, in the examination for which much importance will be attached to proficiency in moral philosophy or natural science in connexion with medicine.

A Committee of the City of London, having agreed to recommend the publication of a series of extracts from the Corporation Records, Mr. Hale brought up a report from the Library Committee, recommending that Mr. H. T. Riley be engaged to compile a volume of extracts from those corporation records, at an estimated expense, for 750 copies, of 550*l.*, less the amount to be realized by the sale of a portion of that number. After some debate this recommendation was adopted by a large majority.

The newspapers record the decease, in his seventy-third year, at Mount Pleasant, near Woburn, Bedfordshire, of Benjamin B. Wiffen, a member of the Society of Friends, well known for his acquirements in matters connected with the history of the Reformation in Spain. In co-operation with a Spanish friend, also deceased, Mr. Wiffen was instrumental in the reprinting of some twenty of the works of the early Spanish reformers; two of which, the 'Epistola Consolatoria' of Juan Perez and the 'Alfabeto Christiano' of Juan de Valdes, were edited by him. The latter work, indeed, owed its discovery to him, having been unknown, even to bibliographers, for the last three centuries, until brought to light and translated by him in the year 1861. Mr. Wiffen was also the author of the 'Life of Valdes,' prefixed to the recent translation of 'The Hundred and Ten Divine Considerations' of that writer. In his earlier years, Mr. Wiffen had been a contributor to the fugitive poetry of that day. He was the brother of the late Mr. J. H. Wiffen, the translator of Tasso and of Garcilasso de la Vega, and of Mrs. Alaric A. Watts.

Mr. William Edward Love, the polyphonist, died on Saturday week, in his sixty-third year. Some few years ago he suffered from paralysis, by which his speech was so much impaired that he could not appear in his usual entertainment. Gradually he fell into poverty, and a benefit was obtained for him at Sadler's Wells, and afterwards a subscription raised in his behalf by the Rev. R. A. Killick, rector of St. Clement Danes, in which parish he resided at the time of his death. Mr. Love was, we believe, the first who adopted the title of polyphonist, instead of that of ventriloquist. His chief point of distinction, indeed, was the number of voices which he was able to introduce into the same dialogue, and the varieties of distance and direction which he could impart to the sounds. In this "perspective part of his art," as he describes it in his Memoir, he surpassed other professors. The term "polyphony" properly describes the art intended, which the word "ventriloquism" misrepresents. This latter word implies that the voice is

articulated in the stomach; whereas it is only an acquired faculty of imitating the *timbre* of other voices and of various instruments, and a capacity of artfully creating illusions in regard to distance and direction. In this Mr. Love was an exquisite actor. So skilfully did he graduate the intensity of the sound, whether by increasing or reducing its loudness, and so adroitly by his action and gesture indicate the point from which it was supposed to proceed, that the deception was never even suspected. The art can be acquired by practice, though it cannot be easily taught.

Of the confusion occasioned by the existence of the two contemporaneous "hunting Tom Smiths of Hampshire," an amusing illustration is found in the following letter from one of those correspondents who exercise an irresponsible censorship over the censors of literature, and delight to pick a fallen critic out of any scrape into which he may chance to tumble. Sometimes, after raising a humiliated scribe to his feet, these guardians of literary interests pat him on the back with an air of benevolent patronage, and bidding him be more careful for the future send him on his way without a stern rebuke. "A. H." is not stern; but he lacks the soothing courtesy which marks the gentlest of his kind. The curt decisiveness of his "Please correct" would be bitter as gall and wormwood to a man writhing on the consciousness of error.—

"March 25, 1867.  
"By a curious inversion of meaning, you have given the credit of those two popular sporting books, 'The Life of a Fox' and 'The Diary of a Huntsman,' to the wrong 'Tom Smith.' Your article attributes their authorship to him called 'another Tom Smith,' but they were really written by his senior, the original 'T. Asheton Smith.' Please correct.—Yours, &c., A. H."  
—The error lies with "A. H.," not with us. 'The Life of a Fox' and 'The Diary of a Huntsman' were written by Thomas Smith, successively Master of the Hambleton, Craven and Pytchley Hunts, and not, as our Correspondent imagines, by Thomas Asheton Smith, Master of the Quorn, Burton and Tedworth. If "A. H." will refer to a copy of 'The Life of a Fox,' (1838) he will find its authorship assigned on the title-page to "Thomas Smith, Esq., late Master of the Craven Hounds." In 'Sporting Incidents in the Life of Another Tom Smith' the two works are properly put to the credit of the surviving Tom Smith.

In obedience to the wishes of both nations, Queen Victoria has declined to receive the statues of English Kings, which the Emperor Napoleon had courteously placed at her service. The excitement caused in France by the proposed transfer is considerable; and is some sort of guarantee that these interesting historical memorials will no longer remain in their present disgraceful state.

The King of Italy has conferred on our countryman, Mr. E. St. John Fairman, discoverer of petroleum in Italy, the Cross of St. Maurice and St. Lazarus.

Edward Mueller, of Cothen, has just completed his Etymological Dictionary of the English Language. He has used largely the works of Wedgwood, Max Müller, Mätzner and Koch, as his authorities, besides Curtius's Greek Etymology, Burguy's Glossary of the Langue d'Oïl, Mahn's edition of Webster, Bopp's Glossary, and Strattmann's Early English Lexicon, which is still incomplete. Diefenbach and Diez are quoted on every page. An abridged translation of Mueller's work is wanted for the English market, pending Mr. Wedgwood's completion and abridgment of his 'English Etymology.'

"A Bill to make further provision for the Enlargement of the National Gallery" has been printed and published. This document states that the Commissioners of Works and Public Buildings have no power provided for the acquisition of lands before described otherwise than by agreement with the owners, and that those owners are incapacitated from entering into any valid agreement for the purpose. To the end proposed, further power is sought. Another "Bill," to enable the above named Commissioners to acquire lands in the neighbourhood of the Houses of Parliament, and embank the river

in that place, has been printed and published. The latter Bill is presumed to have for one of its objects the securing of the Houses of Parliament against those risks by means of fire, to which we have, during several recent years, referred as imminent.

One of the apologies for the defacement of Ludgate Hill by the bridge of the Chatham and Dover Railway was, that public convenience would be consulted, and a present made to the public by the opening of a foot-bridge across the road there. The railway company has built its bridge and footway; uses the former at its will, but has not opened the latter. How much longer is it to remain closed and useless?

Another warning has been given against the permitted existence of gas-factories in crowded towns. On Sunday week a purifier blew up in the Corporation Gas-Works, Rochdale Road, Manchester, and six men who were at work near or about it were more or less injured and burnt. The roof of the building was blown off; the machinery in the neighbourhood, the foundry, which adjoined, and many houses were greatly injured. Had this "accident" happened on a week-day, the suffering might have been much greater. Admirable engineers have declared over and over again that gas-manufacture is not dangerous; even doctors have been found to say that it is not injurious to health; yet a considerable number of explosions, and a wiser or more honest opinion, have testified to the falsity of these assertions.

The following sums are required for the public service, on account of Education, Science, and Art:—Public Education, Great Britain, 705,365*l.*, increase on last year, 11,335*l.*—Science and Art Department, 206,367*l.*, increase 32,459*l.*—Public Education, Ireland, 344,700*l.*, increase 8,570*l.*—University of London, 8,711*l.*—Universities, &c., Scotland, 18,918*l.*—Queen's University, Ireland, 2,515*l.*—Queen's Colleges, Ireland, 4,265*l.*—Royal Irish Academy, 700*l.*—National Gallery of Ireland, 2,183*l.*—Belfast Theological Professors, 2,500*l.*—British Museum, 99,621*l.*, decrease 48,844*l.*—National Gallery, 15,895*l.*—British Historical Portrait Gallery, 1,650*l.*—Scientific Works and Experiments, 13,215*l.*—Board of Manufactures, Scotland, 3,600*l.*—Universal Exhibition, Paris, 53,799*l.* (last year this item appeared for 62,000*l.*)—Learned Societies, Great Britain, 2,300*l.*—Total, 1,487,554*l.* The amount devoted to the Science and Art Department is subdivided thus:—Schools, 41,200*l.*—South Kensington Museum, purchase of objects and books, 17,750*l.*; management, &c., 37,725*l.*—For the National Portrait Exhibition, 3,000*l.* was taken last year; no estimate is made now, because it is anticipated that the receipts for admissions will cover the cost.—New Permanent Buildings, completion and decoration of buildings begun, on account of 195,000*l.*, 32,000*l.*—Auxiliary Museum of Science and Art in the East of London, i.e. for the removal of the "boilers" from Kensington to Bethnal Green, to a site that is offered by a local committee, 5,000*l.*—Geological Museum, 11,298*l.*—Geological Survey, 19,654*l.*—Edinburgh Museum, 5,828*l.*—Institutions in Ireland in union with the Department, 26,333*l.*—The British Museum, total, as above, is thus devoted in detail: salaries of 138 persons, 52,141*l.*; house, 3,260*l.*; purchases, 19,735*l.* The special purchases of the year 1866-7, amounted to 53,721*l.*, including 2,000*l.* for the Castellani Collection of Antiquities, 6,000*l.* for a collection of shells formed by the late Mr. H. Cuming, and 43,721*l.* for the Blacas Collection of Antiquities.—Bookbinding, 10,160*l.*—Printing Catalogues, &c., 4,940*l.*—Building, furniture, &c., 10,155*l.*

Prof. Madvig, of Copenhagen, is engaged on an edition of Cicero's 'De Finibus Bonorum et Malorum,' which will appear this year.

A very important and extensive fishery exhibition is now in course of preparation at the Hague. It will comprise all matters connected with sea and fresh-water fisheries, piscicultural apparatus, and a variety of specimens of fish. Prizes will be awarded to the most successful exhibitors. Articles for exhibition must be sent in on or before the 15th of May.

M. Cousin has not only bequeathed his magnifi-



cent library of 14,000 volumes to the Sorbonne, but has made arrangements in his will by which it is to remain in its present locality. The rooms which it occupies are to be added to the library apartments of the Sorbonne, and all the furniture, engravings, &c. are to remain intact. M. Cousin further endows the Sorbonne with an annual income of 10,000 francs to defray the expense of keeping his library; appoints M. St. Hilaire chief librarian, and leaves him all his papers, on condition that he is to write the testator's biography.

We have to record the death at Venice, on the 15th inst., of Count Girolamo Antonio Dandolo, Director of the Venetian Archives. He was the last male representative of an ancient family; and on the pages of the last 'Golden Book' we find his birth registered under the date of the 26th of July, 1796. By the Preface to the first volume of the 'Venetian Calendar,' we are reminded that the fall of the Republic took place on the following 12th of May; and in that same Preface the cordial assistance rendered by Count Dandolo for the compilation of the 'Calendar' is deservedly eulogized. In like manner, at the time of his death, he was aiding to complete the second volume. In the course of last summer, at the request of the Master of the Rolls, he enabled our Record Office to procure sixty-three photographed pages of ciphered despatches, written by the Venetian ambassador in London, from the 12th of March, 1555, to the 7th of April, 1556. Count Dandolo's acumen and penetration were typical of the diplomatic correspondence committed to his charge; and his sincerity and frankness were on a par with his noble descent. He bore adversity bravely, and relied for support but on himself—so say the Venetians; and they add, that he is entitled to their gratitude for having invariably had at heart the honour of Venice, and for having always advocated it strenuously both by word of mouth and through the press, which, amongst his other works, has preserved 'La Caduta della Repubblica di Venezia,' a dignified reply to an abusive pamphlet which appeared in 1854 against the Venetian Government and aristocracy in the last century; its author, in like manner, showing small indulgence towards what he called "*le Britanni stravaganti*," and which he illustrated by certain proceedings of John Strange, the English Secretary-Resident at Venice in 1783-4. Count Dandolo's treatment of the British nation was more generous than that of his predecessor at the "Frati"; and we have reason to lament a loss which his own countrymen pronounce to be that of a sage and upright Venetian nobleman; one who had most usefully studied the history of his country, and no less sincerely served his friends.

**DUDLEY GALLERY.** Egyptian Hall.—The GENERAL EXHIBITION OF WATER-COLOUR DRAWINGS IS NOW OPEN daily, from Ten till Six.—Admission, 1s. Gas at dusk.  
GEORGE L. HALL, Hon. Sec.

**WINTER EXHIBITION.**—The FOURTEENTH ANNUAL WINTER EXHIBITION OF PICTURES, the Contributions of British Artists, IS NOW OPEN, at the French Gallery, 129, Pall Mall.—Admission, 1s.; Catalogue, 6d.

LEON LEFÈVRE, Secretary.

**FRENCH GALLERY.** 129, Pall Mall.—The FOURTEENTH ANNUAL EXHIBITION OF PICTURES, the Contributions of the French and Flemish Schools, WILL OPEN ON MONDAY NEXT.—Admission, 1s.; Catalogue, 6d.

**MR. MOREY'S COLLECTION OF MODERN HIGH-CLASS PICTURES** IS ON VIEW at the Royal Exchange Fine Arts Gallery, 54, Cornhill. This Collection contains examples of Leslie, R.A.—D. Roberts, R.A.—E. M. Ward, R.A.—J. Phillips, R.A.—Egg, R.A.—Frith, R.A.—Goodall, R.A.—Cooke, R.A.—P. Kensall, R.A.—Les, R.A.—Calderon, A.R.A.—Sant, A.R.A.—Le Jeune, A.R.A.—Aundell, A.R.A.—Frost, A.R.A.—H. O'Neill, A.R.A.—Pettie, A.R.A.—Yeames, A.R.A.—P. Nasmyth—Lindell, sen.—Dobson, A.R.A.—Cooper, A.R.A.—Gale—Marks—F. Hardy—John Ford—Reisner—Liddell—George Smith—Peter Graham—Gérôme—H. W. Davis—Baxter. Also Drawings by Hunt, Cox, Birket Foster, Dancan, Topham, F. Walker, E. Warren, &c.—Admission on presentation of address card.

**MRS. SCOTT-SIDDONS** (née Miss Siddons, great-grand-daughter of the Mrs. Siddons) will RECITE SELECTIONS from SHAKESPEARE and TENNYSON, at the Hanover Square Rooms, on MONDAY NEXT, April 1, commencing at Eight precisely. Fauteuils, 7s. 6d.; Reserved Stalls, 5s.; Reserved Seats, 3s.; Unreserved Seats, 2s.—May be obtained at Mr. Mitchell's Royal Library, Old Bond Street; and at the Rooms.

## SCIENCE

### SOCIETIES.

**ROYAL.**—*March 21.*—General Sabine, President, in the chair.—Dr. T. Sterry Hunt and Dr.

Richardson were admitted into the Society.—The following papers were read:—'Computation of the Length of the Waves of Light corresponding to the Lines in the Dispersion Spectrum measured by Kirchhoff,' by Mr. G. B. Airy, 'On a Remarkable Alteration of Appearance and Structure of the Human Hair,' by Mr. E. Wilson, 'Remarks on the Nature of Electric Energy, and on the Means by which it is transmitted,' by Mr. C. Brooke.

**GEOGRAPHICAL.**—*March 25.*—Sir R. I. Murchison, Bart., President, in the chair.—Col. E. Conran, Lieut.-Col. F. W. Newdigate, Dr. J. C. Brown and Mr. J. Dugdale were elected Fellows.—Despatches and Letters relating to the Last Journey and Reported Death of Dr. Livingstone.

**GEOLOGICAL.**—*March 20.*—W. W. Smyth, Esq., President, in the chair.—Messrs. J. D. Baldry and C. Trotter were elected Fellows.—The following communications were read:—'Report on Recent Discoveries of Gold in New Brunswick,' by Mr. W. S. Shea.—'On the Discovery of Coal on the Eastern Slope of the Andes,' by Mr. W. Wheelwright.—'On the Presence of Purbeck Beds at Brill, Buckinghamshire,' by the Rev. P. B. Brodie.—'On the Lower Lias, or Lias-conglomerate of Glamorganshire,' by Mr. H. W. Bristowe.—'On Abnormal Conditions of Secondary Deposits when connected with the Somersetshire and South Wales Coal-basins; and on the Age of the Sutton and Southerndown Series,' by Mr. C. Moore.

**NUMISMATIC.**—*March 21.*—W. S. W. Vaux, Esq., President, in the chair.—Messrs. J. C. Lucas and M. E. C. Phillips were elected Members.—Mr. J. F. Neck exhibited a portion of a vase of grey earthenware, found at the Surrey Commercial Docks, and which contained 1,900 Roman copper coins of the age of Theodosius and Arcadius.—The Rev. J. H. Pollexfen exhibited a small silver British coin found with a coin of Domitian and other antiquities at Colchester.—Mr. Evans read a paper communicated by Mr. W. Blades, and entitled 'Numismata Typographica; or, the Medial History of Printing.' Several interesting and rare medals relating to printing were exhibited.—The Rev. A. Pownall read a paper by himself 'On certain Silver Coins of Henry the Sixth, which form a connecting link with the first mintage of Edward the Fourth.'

**CHEMICAL.**—*March 21.*—Dr. W. A. Miller, President, in the chair.—Major R. C. Stuart, Messrs. J. H. Freeman and R. H. Davey were admitted Fellows of the Society, and the following were elected: Dr. A. Fraser, Mr. A. Tribe and Mr. F. S. Barff, M.A.—Dr. J. H. Gladstone offered a few remarks 'On Phosphonitric,' describing the mode of formation of this substance, its composition (PNO), and raising a question about the nomenclature. Mr. T. S. Hunt supported the view advanced by the previous speaker, and referred to a previous communication of his own to *Silliman's Journal*.—Mr. J. Parkinson read a paper 'On the Phosphide of Magnesium,' and showed an experiment in illustration of the rapidity with which this substance is decomposed by water. Its formula was said to be Mg<sub>3</sub>P.—Mr. Spiller confirmed this last statement from the result of his own previous analyses.—Dr. W. S. Squire exhibited a large block of frozen glycerine, which was part of a large importation (five tons weight) from Germany during the severe weather of the past winter. The purity of the substance had been ascertained, but the speaker was unable to induce the solidification of ordinary (fluid) glycerine at will.—Dr. W. De La Rue gave some particulars relative to the extreme degree of cold observed by him at or about the time of transmission of the glycerine to England.

**SOCIETY OF ARTS.**—*March 18.*—'On Music and Musical Instruments' (Cantor Lecture), Lecture III, 'Musical Expression,' by Mr. J. Hullah. *March 20.*—The Right Hon. S. Cave, V.P., in the chair.—The paper read was, 'On Successful Oyster Culture,' by Mr. H. Lobb.

**MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.**  
**Mon.** Royal Institution, 2.—General Monthly.  
— Asiatic, 3.—'Ougour Literature,' Dr. Vámbéry.  
— Entomological, 7.  
**Tues.** Society of Arts, 8.—'Music and Musical Instruments,' Mr. Hullah (Cantor Lecture).  
— Royal Institution, 3.—'Botany,' Prof. Henslow.  
— Horticultural, 3.—General Meeting and Lecture.  
— Engineers, 8.—'Memoir on the River Tyne,' Mr. Brooks.  
**Wed.** Society of Arts, 8.  
— Geological, 5.—'Denitition of *Rhinoceros leptorhinus*,' Mr. Dawkins; 'Drift of part of Warwickshire,' Mr. Brodie; 'Strata which form the Base of the Lincolnshire Wolds,' Mr. Judd.  
**Thurs.** Royal Institution, 3.—'Antiquity of Man,' Mr. Pengelly.  
— Linnean, 8.—'Geographical Distribution of Ferns,' Mr. Baker.  
— Royal, 8.  
— Antiquaries, 8.  
**Fri.** Royal Institution, 8.—'St. Michael's Mount, Cornwall,' Mr. Pengelly.  
**Sat.** Royal Institution, 3.—'Antiquity of Man,' Mr. Pengelly.

## FINE ARTS

### NATIONAL GALLERY.

THE recently issued Report of the Director of the National Gallery gives, in addition to what we have already published about late acquisitions, the following particulars. The 'Madonna and Child,' by Lippo Dalmasio, was purchased in January of last year from Signor M. Gualandi for 400*l.*; it is painted in tempera on canvas, signed 'Lippus Dalmasii.' Painted 1376—1410. This work was formerly in the Ercolani Palace, Bologna, and is now numbered 752. The 'Rhetoric,' (which is attributed to Melozzo da Forlì, born 1438, died 1494), shows the head of a man, which is evidently a portrait,—bears on the frieze above the throne of the 'Muse' part of an inscription, DVX VRBINI MONTISFIBRI AC,—is painted in oil on wood,—is said to have been executed for the Palace of Urbino,—was afterwards in the possession of the Conti family, and was purchased from Mr. W. Spence for 300*l.* It is numbered 755. 'Music,' companion to the last, has a similarly placed inscription (ECLESIE CONFALONERIVS), has a similar history, cost an equal sum, and is numbered 756. The series of which these works once formed part comprised, it is said, seven paintings; a picture in the Museum at Berlin, and there called 'Bramantino,' was doubtless a third of this number. Placing the three together, the inscriptions unite in one by the insertion from the Berlin example of the words DURANTIS COMES SER between those of the other two. A fourth picture, now in the stores of the Berlin Museum, and much injured, should the inscription upon it supply the remaining sentence, ATQUE ITALICE CONFEDERATIONIS IMPERATOR, will serve to complete the list of titles which pertained to the Duke Frederic of Urbino, who is reputed to have commissioned these paintings with a desire to surround himself by portraits of the celebrated men of his time whom he most valued and esteemed. A further light may be gained by their similarity in earnestness of purpose and thought and treatment, says the Director of the National Gallery, with a picture now at Windsor, and purchased from the Woodburn collection. This work represents Frederic, Duke of Urbino, seated in a rich chair; his son, Guidobaldo, then about eight years of age, standing at his knee, with an ecclesiastical or learned man, reading, and three richly-dressed attendants on a raised seat behind. This work is ascribed to Melozzo da Forlì. Rome possesses the only absolutely authenticated works of this painter—the fragments of the ceiling of the church of SS. Apostoli, and the fresco transferred to canvas, now in the Vatican. The 'Portrait,' supposed to represent a Contessa Palma, of Urbino, painted in tempera on wood, by Piero della Francesca, was purchased of Signor Egidii, at Florence, for 160*l.*, and was formerly in the possession of Conte Pancrazi, of Ascoli Piceno, is numbered 758. The Rembrandt 'Christ blessing Little Children' was formerly in the collection of Count Schönbörn, of Vienna, and lately purchased of Herr Suermont, at Aix-la-Chapelle, for 7,000*l.*, and is now numbered 757. Fourteen pictures have been covered by glass during the past year, making in all 115 pictures of foreign schools, besides 54 pictures of the British School, and 202 frames of drawings and sketches. The number of visitors to the National Gallery during the year ending December 31, 1865, was, at Trafalgar Square, which is open to the public four days in the week, 775,901; at South

Kensington, where the gallery is open six days, and three evenings in the week, 756,075; total, 1,531,976. The statements of last year as to the number of visitors were as follows: To Trafalgar Square, 694,354; to South Kensington, 692,900; total, 1,387,254. As to the details of copying pictures by old masters, the Raphael, No. 744, has been reproduced twelve times, and stands highest on the list in respect to numbers,—a position which, as we fear, it does not owe to the desire of the students to cultivate the severer forms of Art. Our old friend, the so-called "Gevartius" of Vandyke, which now figures in the Report as 'Portrait of C. Vander Geest,' has tempted the tyros and trading copyists five times.

## FINE-ART GOSSIP.

THE private view of the French Exhibition, at 120, Pall Mall, takes place to-day (Saturday). The Gallery will be open to the public on Monday next.

Mr. Watts will probably send to the Royal Academy: 1. A life-sized, or rather larger, picture of Eve. The mother of mankind is represented standing as if just after the moment of creation, lost in wonder at existence, and, it may be, in an ecstasy of thankfulness. One of her hands is slightly raised, her face upturned, one foot advanced a little before the other. Her limbs look large in their dark, ardent, but not glowing, hues and almost marble-like firmness of contour. Behind is rich vegetation. 2. A lady kneeling in prayer by the side of a table, and as if present at home worship; a book is in her hand.

Mr. Leighton will probably contribute the following pictures to the Royal Academy Exhibition: —1. A Lady with a Pomegranate, which may be considered as a pendant to the similar picture of the Lady with Azaleas of last year. The present work shows a woman with the fruit in one hand; the fellow hand rests upon a vase:—a study in colour and expression. 2. A Girl playing with Tali. She is seated upon a low wall, and, in the manner of the immemorial game, tosses the bone and catches them upon the back of her hand. 3. Gaditana Dancing. An effect of moonrise in a sultry Spanish night; light gleams in a long "wake" upon the waters of the famous bay; the sweep of the shore, upon which the houses and other structures stand half obscured, supplies the distant portion of the background, and is almost lost in fervid gloom; nearer, two youths and a girl are resting against a parapet, and, with one accord, beat time to the dancing of a damsel, who, upright before us, moves limbs and head and body with gentle grace in undulating, half-oriental languors of motion. In this work the effect not less than the harmonies of colour and tone assort with the pathos of the subject. 4. A Pastoral. A youth teaches a girl to play on the double pipe; a subject so often chosen by antique sculptors and painters, and in part curiously illustrated by the beautiful, but much-restored, head of a youth, now in the second Vase Room of the British Museum, near the Blacas pictures, which is said to have been found in a columbarium on the Appian Way. In Mr. Leighton's picture the young man daintily adjusts the fingers of his companion on the stops of the instrument. Behind them, a piece of rough upland, with a hanging bank of trees, stretches in many levels to a bluish line of mountains. 5. Venus disrobing for the Bath. The naked goddess stands upon a marble floor and slightly stoops to remove with one foot the slipper which encases its fellow. A vast white column rises and foils the warmer, softer hues of her flesh. With its entablature, and the floor, this shaft frames a vista of the distant sea and thunder-laden summer clouds without. Within, as Venus was goddess of gardens, stands by her side a great vase of roses wealthy in blooms. The figure seems larger than life. 6. A Head of a Roman Mother.

For the Royal Academy Mr. Mason is advanced with a picture of somewhat greater size and importance than those he has recently exhibited. It represents the effect of late autumn twilight in sullen wealth of colour and sobriety of tone as day is almost lost behind half-bare trees in the background and night comes on from the front. Into the darker front, that is, towards us, advances a

group of village girls, who, as they stroll along a path that runs by a hill-side, sing old and well-remembered tunes from the hymn-books their hands hold. By-incidents, such as that which is furnished by a widow in her weeds and lulling her babe, occupy part of the composition to which the singers supply the chief element. On the right of the background is a village built on the side of a rocky eminence, and the church tower looming against the sky of deep gold hue. Between the foreground and the village is a ravine with trees, which, as they extend nearly the whole length of the picture, form a network against the horizon, and at intervals show the houses of the village, which here and there, at open doors and windows, send forth gleams from lighted lamps and fires.

The Corporation of Manchester, by the hands of the Town Clerk, has issued instructions to architects who may care to enter upon a general and preliminary competition for designing the Town Hall, which is to occupy the site inclosed by Albert Square, Cooper, Lloyd and Princess Streets, an irregularly-sided plot of ground, being on its respective boundaries in the order named, viz., 310, 100, 325 and 375 feet. The designs, which must be sent in on or before the 1st of July next, for the first competition, must comprise only elevations to Albert Square, Princess and Cooper Streets, in Indian-ink or sepia only, with plans of the ground and principal floors, five drawings in all, scale 10 feet to the inch, on stretchers, without frames or borders, and not exceed 34 inches long by 25½ inches high. No perspective drawings will be received. The building is to comprise the basement, ground, first or principal, second and third floors. The plans of the ground and principal floors must show the relative positions of the offices assigned to the several departments of the Corporation, each department to be tinted differently from others. The "instructions" supply all needful information as to the wants of these departments. Designers need not occupy the whole of the site; the principal entrance must be in Albert Square. Competitors may choose their own styles, and must use mottoes, or devices only, as signatures. From the designs submitted, not fewer than six or more than twelve will be selected and their authors invited to compete again, "upon the understanding that the author of the selected design" shall be employed. To each of the second order of competitors the Corporation will pay 300*l*.

As postscript to the obituary notice of Peter Cornelius, the famous German artist, which appeared in this journal, it may be added, that a well-reasoned and elegantly written biographical essay on his life and works, by that accomplished Art dilettante, the Baron Alfred von Wolzogen, has just been published. To him, as all interested in Berlin art and architecture may recollect, we owe the elaborate monograph on one of the most industrious and versatile of modern workers, Schinkel, the architect and draughtsman, some notice of whose collections arranged in the Berlin Museum (arranged and classified by the Baron von Wolzogen), was given in the *Athenæum* two or three years ago.

Messrs. Christie, Manson & Woods sold on Saturday last a collection of pictures and drawings, the property of Mr. J. A. Rose, at the following prices for the more important examples:—W. Hunt, Two portraits of the artist, one young and one old, 50*l*. (Vokins). Another property:—Mr. W. Linnell, The Banks and Braes, 278*l*. (Plympton).—Mr. F. R. Lee, An Autumnal Morning, 267*l*. (James).—J. Phillip, Infancy, Maturity and Age, 168*l*. (Alexander).—Mr. A. Johnston, From 'The Lady of the Lake,' 126*l*. (Thomas).—G. Saal, The Hundredth Birthday, 152*l*. (same); Moonlight in the Forest of Fontainebleau, 152*l*. (James).

Among more than 2,000 lots, the following items have interest from the catalogue of the sale, by Messrs. Christie, Manson & Woods, of Messrs. Colnaghi's engravings and publications. The auctions occurred between the 11th and 23rd inst. A proof by Longhi, after Correggio, The Reading Magdalen, 25*l*. (Grundy); by the same, after Raphael, The Marriage of the Virgin, 18*l*. 10*s*. (Holloway).—R. Morghen, after Da Vinci, The

Last Supper, proof, 34*l*. 10*s*. (Goupil).—Desnoyers, after Raphael, La Belle Jardinière, first state before letters, 30*l*. (Agnew).—Faithorne, Oliver Cromwell, in full armour, "between the columns," 29*l*. (Noseda).—Hollar, after Holbein, Sir Thomas Chalonier, second state, with corrections in the inscription, 18*l*. (Holloway).—Rembrandt, The Oblong Landscape, with the Barn, 13*l*. 10*s*. (Clement).—Christ healing the Sick, the Hundred Guilders Print, second state, 24*l*. (Trant).—A complete copy of the Liber Studiorum, 109*l*. (Tilly).—Toschi, after Correggio's Frescoes at Parma, artist's proof, 25*l*. (Sattin).—The Spasimo, after Raphael, 22*l*. 10*s*. (Evans).—Müller, after Raphael, Madonna di San Sisto, proof, 33*l*. 12*s*. (Adams). Miniatures: Hoskins, Charles the First, in an embroidered doublet, 81*l*. 10*s*. (Graham).—J. Oliver, Laud, 40*l*. Drawings: M. Angelo, A Warrior in Armour, 81*l*. 10*s*. (Martin).—Claude, The Ruins of a Roman Temple, 29*l*. 18*s*. (Trant).—Rembrandt, A Ferry Boat passing a Stream, 26*l*. 5*s*. (Adams).

## MUSIC AND THE DRAMA

MR. HENRY LESLIE'S CHOIR, April 4, St. James's Hall.—Sacred Music. Mendelssohn's Psalms, "Hear my prayer," and "Judge me, O God." Miss Louisa Pyne; Messrs. Cummings, H. S. Clunch (his first appearance), and Henry Holmes.—Tickets, 6*s*, 3*s*, 2*s*, 1*s*; at all Music-sellers'.

CONCERTS.—The first orchestral concert of the *Musical Society* began with Mendelssohn's 'Walpurgis Night,' spiritedly performed, but somewhat coarsely. The solo singers were Miss Julia Elton, Mr. Leigh Wilson, and Mr. Lewis Thomas. Madame Schumann, who was most enthusiastically received, played Beethoven's Choral Fantasia, and Mozart's Piano-forte Concerto in D minor; the latter in her best manner, the cadenzas excepted. The difficult passages in these were not clear. Her playing of Beethoven's Choral Fantasia was less satisfactory. She is the rage, among a large number of our concert-goers; but that being incomplete, and oftentimes unfinished, she is over-rated, are facts, the re-statement of which is forced on us by a vehemence of rapture which tends to disturb the balance of sound judgment. Nor are we solitary in our opinion, though the expression of it has given no common amount of offence. Schumann's 'Gipsy Life' (a part-song, of which we spoke on the occasion of its publication) was encored.

At Saturday's *Popular Concert*, the Otteto of Schubert was repeated. This work is already established in the good graces of our amateurs. The themes of every movement are bold, beautiful, and, like Mrs. Gilpin's wine, "both bright and clear." Especially commendable is the second subject of the opening *Allegro*, as captivating as the *motivo* of any Italian *cabaletta*, as distinguished as one of Beethoven's themes, and which brings about the close as admirably as originally. The *Andante*, lovely though its melody be, may be said to languish a little. The *Scherzo* is busy with life and unexpected turns. The prelude to the *Finale* is majestic and mysterious, with one or two modulations of surpassing hardihood, yet none tormenting to the ear. The *Finale* is animated, built on a capital subject, to which piquancy is given by an artifice peculiarly Schubert's own, to be found also in the Prelude to his Symphony. The phrase is an eight-bar one; but the first and fourth bars are identical in beat; and by this a certain mystification, as distinct from dislocation, of rhythm, is produced, anything but unpleasant. Deliciously joyous is the second subject; the movement is wrought out with unflagging spirit, and more closely knit than is always the master's habit. The grouping of the instruments, we repeat, is excellent. In brief, here is a genuine and wholesome addition to our stores of pleasure. The Otteto was excellently performed. It is to be repeated again to-day. The same composer's Op. 78, curiously entitled a *Piano-forte Fantasia*, or *Sonata*, was allotted on Monday to Madame Arabella Goddard. This affords another evidence of Schubert's wonderful fertility in delicious inventions. The first movement, based on a phrase original in rhythm, is, perhaps, the least welcome of the four; the phrase having a certain



oddity and jerk, which (in a *cantabile* of  $\frac{1}{2}$  tempo) teases more than it pleases or piques the ear. The idea may be compared with the opening one of Weber's Sonata in a flat (also in  $\frac{1}{2}$  tempo), the movement being in character not wholly dissimilar to the one in question. The phrase, of no particular value, is, further, as cruelly worked to death in the second part of the *molto moderato*, as if Spohr the sterile, not Schubert the affluent, had been its parent. The *Andante* has a winning and tuneable theme, with an effective use of unisons in the announcement of it, which we cannot recollect to have met elsewhere. In this movement the episodes are excellent; but it is too much prolonged. The Minuet is excellent, with a *trio* ravishing in its sweetness. The *Rondo*, again, is new; and though the theme is somewhat *baroque*, it is a theme. Here, again, the intermediate matter is full of fancy and contrast, and the winding-up most picturesque.

What was wanting to this real man of genius, which stands between him and that fullness of satisfaction commanded by the great masters of music? It may be conceived, the power of self-criticism, which every honest artist must exercise, but can only command after having heard his own works performed. Let it be remembered that, from the moment that this was cut off from Beethoven by the encroachments of the "iron shroud" of his deafness, that first of instrumental composers, who had written the Eight Symphonies, and the four 'Leonora' Overtures, and the ten Quartets, became diffuse, vague, opinionated in his writing, though the "spark divine" only died out with his life. Schubert appears to have had little, if any, chance of testing his important works by presence at their execution, and to have gathered little of that experience and self-correction which are so precious to every man who aspires to do great things. When Rachel was dying of exhaustion, public triumph, and private profligacy, and when the people about her, to whom her life was a gold-mine, sought east and west for such white bread as might tempt her jaded palate,—"Ah," said the great bitter actress, "if I had only had a little white bread when I was young!" As an instrumental composer, Schubert was treated to no "white bread" during his lifetime, and his music suffered in consequence. Nothing can be more instructive as matter of study than the mass of his works, as rich in the genial fantasy they display as those of any writer who ever adorned his art, and yet too seldom yielding that highest satisfaction which real poetry should give, not merely by "the thoughts that breathe," but by the pertinence and preciousness of their setting.

No wonder that so much attention has been excited by the treasures of Schubert's music, at last brought to English notice:—flawed diamonds, many of them; not the less, therefore, precious stones. In continuation of what has been just said, let attention be called to two movements of an unfinished Symphony by him, in a minor—a posthumous work, published in score (Vienna, Spina; London, Ewer & Co.), original, if ever symphony was; distinct and captivating in idea; peculiar in treatment; here and there diffuse, but instinct with that fervid unborrowed spirit which is given to only the favoured few. We believe that its performance may be looked for at that home of enterprise in selection and care in execution, the Crystal Palace. The amateur societies, we are told, are beginning to take up Schubert's Mass in E flat, three numbers of which (the 'Et Incarnatus' especially) are exquisite.

Madame Lemmens-Sherrington sang the part of the *Peri* in Schumann's *Cantata*, this day week, at Sydenham. To quote from the *Times*, "A more fatiguing part was never written for a human voice; and this was evidently felt by Madame Lemmens-Sherrington, notwithstanding her bright, flexible voice and great musical ability." The work, says another contemporary, not adverse to the composer's ambitious music, met with "a restricted success." And a third gives for opinion that "the effect of the whole was decidedly heavy." *Requiescat.*

This has been a week of first appearances. Mr.

Wilford Morgan made his on Monday, at the second *Philharmonic Concert*, in what we take leave to think but a dull song—Stradella's "*Pieta*."—Herr Silberschmidt, a pianist who has been for some time waiting his opportunity, played at the *Wednesday Crystal Palace Concert*.—There appears to be no end of concerts come or coming. The Messrs. Boosey announce their *Ballad Concerts*, and promise good music (let us hope not Claribelware).—*Madame Schumann* advertises two *Recitals*, to be given before she leaves England for the present.—*Mr. Halle's Recitals* this year will consist of miscellaneous selections of pianoforte music.—The last *soirée* given by *Herr Wilhelm Ganz* took place on Wednesday evening. The sensible (because moderate) programme of the *Brixton Amateur Musical Society's Concert*, of the same date, came duly to hand.

DRURY LANE.—Of all the adaptations of the Waverley romances, Mr. Isaac Pocock's drama of 'Rob Roy' is perhaps the most satisfactory, and the character itself had the merit of first fixing public attention on Mr. Macready as an actor of great ability. The part, indeed, has salient points as a melo-dramatic hero, but is withal thoroughly natural, and its embodiment tends to develop the best characteristics of an artist of genius. There belongs, however, a local colouring to it, which cannot be readily given by the general actor, unacquainted with the local manners. It was therefore welcome news to hear that Scotland possessed an artist of uncommon merit, gifted in all respects to be the representative of her famous Cateran. On Saturday, Mr. T. Powrie made his appearance before a London public, and commanded the attention of an overcrowded house. Nor was that attention ill bestowed; for Mr. Powrie resembles in all things, even to the length of his arm, what tradition has reported of the Highland rebel. His merits, however, lie deeper than that of mere personal resemblance; for he brought out into distinct recognition some delicate traits of feeling and character which are purely original, and not suggested by any other performer who had undertaken the part. We regret that an accident prevented him from appearing on the following Monday, when Mr. Swinburne filled his place. We were also promised on the first night Mr. Sims Reeves in the part of *Francis Osbaldistone*; but in consequence of his indisposition Mr. Harrison supported the character, and sang the songs remarkably well. The absence of both these gentlemen, however, is of less account, in consequence of the peculiar interest which attaches to the performance by Mr. Phelps of the baillie *Nicol Jarvie*. This is a favourite part of this very popular actor, whose command of the Scottish dialect fits him, in a peculiar manner, for its assumption. The audience were not slow in recognizing its merits, and the frequent applause bestowed upon it showed that, whether in a larger or a smaller theatre, whether in the suburbs or at the West End of London, histrionic talent will meet with due appreciation from the "unerring instinct" of the British public. Another part was acted in a manner deserving especial approbation, that of the "*Dougal creature*" by Mr. McIntyre. The part of *Diana Vernon* was very respectably filled by Miss E. Cross, and the songs were pleasingly rendered; but we cannot bestow the same degree of praise on Miss R. G. Le Thiere's *Helen Macgregor*, which was far greater in its intention than its execution. Mr. Edmund Phelps was more than ordinarily successful in *Rashleigh*, and Mr. Barrett was as blustering as need be in *Major Galbraith*. The scenery, costumes and accessories were all picturesque and appropriate; but the former is not new. The music was well cared for by Mr. Tully, who has compiled a fresh overture for the drama, and arranged the choruses with which the action is varied and illustrated, and in both tasks does good service well calculated to render the revival acceptable. Altogether, the performance merits the success which it achieved.

#### MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC GOSSIP.

We are sorry to hear, at the moment of going to press, of the sudden death of Mr. Alfred Mellon,

the consequence of breaking a blood-vessel. We hope to give some account of this excellent musician next week.

Mr. Gye's first opera is to be 'Norma,' with Madame Vilda as heroine.

Mr. Mapleson's Italian season at *Her Majesty's Theatre* is to commence on the 27th of April.

Mr. Benedict's 'Legend of St. Cecilia,' which was given at Exeter Hall last night, will be repeated there on the 12th of April; and, we are informed, is to be given at the Birmingham Festival. The programme of that meeting is nearly arranged, and will probably include the following other principal works, 'Elijah,' 'St. Paul,' 'The Messiah' of course, Dr. Bennett's new work (which, we learn, is sacred), Beethoven's Choral Symphony, Signor Rossini's Mass, 'Alexander's Feast,' and Mr. J. F. Barnett's *Cantata*, 'The Ancient Mariner.'

This week's news from Paris is parti-coloured enough. We are assured, on the authority of the *Gazette Musicale*, that the new opera, 'Romeo and Juliet,' cannot possibly come out at the Théâtre Lyrique, before the 10th of April! It was promised early in December, as certain to be ready by the first days of February. Will it come to light before May Day? We cannot avoid being reminded by such proceedings of the anecdote told against a great English tragedian, who was also manager for a time, and who, during his time of supremacy, was used to admit that he had admirable novelties in store, which he was designedly keeping back. A little exercise of wise administration, we cannot help fancying, might preclude all such extravagance of postponement as this. — Boieldieu's 'Caliph of Bagdad' has been revived at the Théâtre des Fantaiesies Parisiennes. The same theatre is preparing, against the day of the opening of the Exhibition, an allegorical *opéra*, 'The Festival of Peace,' the words by M. A. Pougin, the music by M. Adrien Boieldieu.

Prof. Oakeley was to give, on the anniversary of Bach's birthday, an Organ Concert, at Edinburgh, at which he was to play one of the great Sebastian's Fugues, and introduce a new sacred choral composition by himself. The day passed without any public recognition, so far as we are aware, in London.

Fifteen American pianoforte-makers are about to exhibit at the great show. There, too, is to be "an international competition of civil societies" (what does this mean?) and of European military bands. The prizes will represent the value of 50,000 francs, with extra rewards.—At the International Festival in July will be executed choruses by Signor Rossini, MM. Ambrose Thomas, Bazin, Kucken, De Vos, Vervoitte, Mozart, Weber, and Méhul. The North seems already to be "up and doing" with reference to the occasion. A chorus of Danish singers has arrived on the ground, and the students of Upsal and Christiania are to be represented there.

There is no end of new service music in Paris. A mass, by Prince Poniatowski, was the other day performed at the church of St-Eustache. Also a "Stabat" by the Baroness Le Maistre. A new military mass, by M. Théodore de la Jarte, has just been produced for the benefit of the Association of Artist-Musicians, the choruses sung by soldiers. Another new mass, by M. Colin, a laureate, was to be performed at Notre Dame on Monday last.—'Il Matrimonio' is about to be revived at the Italian Opera, with but a feeble cast as compared with those we recollect.—Mlle. Lambéle has made a good first appearance at the Théâtre Lyrique.

We are still waiting for some trustworthy account of Signor Verdi's 'Don Carlos.' Those that have arrived afford no definite idea of the real value of the opera. A march is universally praised as fine. Before his departure from Paris, the composer invested M. Gevaert with absolute power to cut and curtail, which has been liberally exercised.

Mr. Frederick Clay's operetta, 'Out of Sight,' was produced this day week by a party of amateurs, at the *Gallery of Illustration*, in aid of a charity. Some of the ladies and gentlemen who took part in it, we know, of first amateur quality, and their amusement and glorification of themselves (for

most amusing is it to be seen and heard for those who are conscious of voice, skill, mirth and power) is graceful and charming when, as in the case before us, it is directed to a beneficent object. But though charity "is a fine thing and a fair" (as Sir Geoffrey Peveril put it), it is too much misused in the world of music. Some score of years ago the *Athenæum* pointed out the extent of the abuse. We are glad to see that the *Orchestra* (in the persons of its correspondents) is taking up the question. Who has ever counted up the amount of vicarious beneficence wrought out by patrons and patronesses who give their names as a bait to secure the services of overtaxed and underpaid artists? The more overtaxed and the more underpaid these are, the less are they independently able to resist solicitation, otherwise intimidation. There is a story (which we have possibly told before, but, even if so, one which will bear an *encore*) how a noble patroness of a Viennese charity concert beset the Abbé Liszt—then in the plenitude of his popularity, the most profuse, too, of musical givers—to play for the benefit of her charity. The pianist declined, but professed himself to be entirely at the disposal of her good work. "Come, Madam, I will not play; but I will take as many boxes as you do. What shall we say? Ten each?" Smaller musicians, to whom time and money are of more vital consequence, cannot possibly exert their right of choice in any analogous way. They must fear to make enemies, and dare not accordingly refuse. But surely the titled, the well-born, the well-bred, and the well-circumstanced should consider these things. For the smaller members of the profession the practice here adverted to works badly, in every sense of the word, as a case of false obligation on both sides. Having had this matter long at heart, we are glad to see a contemporary opening the question again.

Here is a paragraph from the *Scotsman*, the other day quoted in the *Times*:—"The following particulars have been received from a gentleman in Hongkong, who is engaged in teaching a tonic sol-fa singing class there. He says: 'I believe this to be almost the first attempt to teach the reading of music to this wonderful people. The Chinese themselves have no tunes and no idea of music. Their instruments can only produce two or three tones, and their singing is screeching in falsetto to no kind of tune. The conventional terms of "high" and "low" are utterly unknown to them. Why, they ask, should a grave note be "down," and a shrill note be "up." Their voices are harsh to a painful degree, and their talent for flattening wonderful. They must never be asked to go above D, and after half-an-hour's singing lose all command of their voices. They also incline to bawl.' But, notwithstanding all these hindrances, the experiment appears to be succeeding. The tonic sol-fa method seems adapted for the Chinese as well as the English. The writer continues: 'If the new tune set before them be an easy one, it is positively sung the first time without error; if a difficult one, two or three trials may be required. The class has now been formed into a choir for Union Church; Dr. Legge, of the London Missionary Society, has printed them some tunes in Chinese tonic sol-fa; and the result is, that the service of song is improved and improving.'—"The only thing like a Chinese tune (as the word is understood by "barbarians") that we can recollect is, the 'Hymn in Honour of the Ancestors,' cited by Herr Engel in his work on Ancient Music. Some little, no doubt, may be done in the creation of a new sense. We have again and again seen how some interest and power of appreciation and enjoyment has been engendered in those who have lived in a musical atmosphere. But we cannot fancy a more hopeless set of scholars than the Celestials, and shall be curious to hear what comes of the experiment."

The publication of Mr. J. Thomas's national Cantata, 'The Bride of the Neath Valley,' may be announced. And here it may be said that the pressure of the season, extraordinary before Easter, and the variety of passing matters claiming notice and discussion, make it necessary to defer such remarks as the larger portion of the heap of new publications before us claims.

The Trilog, 'L'Enfance de Christ,' by M.

Berlioz (the second part of which contains his most rational music), has been given at Lausanne.—A new opera, 'The Fisher of Palermo,' by Herr Grossmann, was produced not long ago at Warsaw. A 'Te Deum,' by Herr Julius Rietz, has been performed at a late *Gewandhaus* Concert at Leipzig. At the same Herr Wilhelmj appeared with the utmost success.

Signor Sivori has undertaken the difficult task (the present state of his powers considered) of appearing as a *virtuoso* at Vienna.

Mr. Ira Aldridge, the black tragedian, has been greatly admired in the French provinces.—An actor of colour, Mr. Morgan Smith, has been playing, successfully it is said, in the Welsh towns.—A Correspondent desires to state that the right spelling of the name of the new tragic actress who has appeared as Shakespeare's *Cleopatra*, at Liverpool, is *Reinhardt*.

A comfortable proof (after its kind) that the asinine hoofs of the Fenian shop-boys and adventurers from "the States" have not trampled out all common sense and cheerfulness in Ireland, presents itself in the fact that Mr. Dickens's readings there have been attended with unprecedented success. At his last, in Dublin, hundreds were unable to gain admission.

Messrs. Puttick & Simpson announce a very interesting sale of music and musical instruments for Monday and Tuesday. Among the instruments, Herr Molique's violins are to be disposed of.

The Winter Garden Theatre at New York has been destroyed by fire.

#### MISCELLANEA

*Shakespeare in the Colonies.*—We extract the following from the *Nassau Guardian* of the 19th of January:—"The chief event of the week has been the unveiling of the bust of Shakespeare, which took place at the *soirée* of the Bahama Institute last evening. The doors of the Missionary Hall were crowded long before they were unbolted, and immediately on opening, the amount of bustle and anxiety to obtain seats was quite exciting. The spacious hall was soon filled, and numbers could not even gain admission. The decorations, of the richest tropical plants and flowers, were very graceful. Just in front of the platform stood the veiled bust, the pedestal tastefully wreathed with leaves of the *arbor vita*. The Rev. R. Dunlop delivered an extempore oration on the immortal bard. It was a masterpiece of brilliant eloquence, and completely riveted the attention of the audience. The reverend gentleman spoke in glowing terms of the benefits conferred on Britain by Shakespeare, whose genius was universally acknowledged, and to whose memory the Anglo-Saxon race paid special homage on the 23rd of April, 1864, not only in the mother-country, but in America, Asia, Australia and the Bahamas. After the oration, which was received with repeated acclamations, Mrs. Rawson, the wife of our respected Governor, unveiled the bust, when the entire audience rose and gave three hearty cheers, adding one cheer more. The sculptor, Mr. Bacon, of London, has shown himself worthy of his profession, for he has executed it in the most chaste style. The marble is of the purest white, and the Stratford bust has been nearly followed. In a few days this work of Art will be placed in our Public Library, in proximity to the handsome volumes presented by the Duke of Edinburgh. It will be remembered that the funds for the bust, one hundred guineas, were raised at the Tercentenary Festival in 1864, and subsequent amateur *soirées*, Ex-Governor Bayley giving the oration, and the late Mr. Marchant, of Charleston, Mr. J. Malan Walker, of Manchester, the Hon. Byron Bodé, *et alii*, taking part in the readings, and the Hon. J. H. Webb and Mr. Wilde leading the musical selections. On the present occasion the music was chiefly Shakespearean, from 'A Midsummer Night's Dream,' 'The Tempest' and 'Macbeth,' with an effective reading of the Trial Scene from 'The Merchant of Venice'; the whole concluding with the National Anthem."

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—M. R.—J. H. C.—A. B. C.—A. J.—A. M. G.—received.

MILTON HOUSE, LUDGATE-HILL, March 28, 1867.

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